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In Business Update

RESIDENTS REALISE THEIR POST BOX IS AN ANTIQUE

The Edward VII post box.

Richard Taylor (left) and Chris Thomas reinstalling the rare Edward VII post box. (Photograph by Mike Wilcock).

PEOPLE in Llanblethian have got their post box back – weeks after the wall in which it was embedded fell down.

The exact cause of the wall's collapse is not clear, although it has been suggested that an errant car (identity unknown) may have been responsible.

However, the wall (in Church Road) has now been rebuilt, and the post box re-installed, and it has meant that residents have noticed something unusual about it.

Rather than the more common 'E II R', symbol, indicating that the post box was made during the present Queen's reign, or 'G VI R' (George VI), it turns out that this box is an 'E VII R' – Edward VII – who reigned from 1901 to 1910, which makes it quite an antique.

PP

DARREN FARM: Housing plan gets green light

Plans for hundreds of homes near Cowbridge have been given the go ahead despite fears over the impact on the town.

Developer Taylor Wimpey wants to build 475 new homes on land north west of Cowbridge called Darren Farm.

Detailed plans for 306 of the homes were given planning permission following a unanimous vote by Vale Council's Planning Committee on Thursday night (April 26).

Cllr Andrew Parker told the meeting he has held discussions with Taylor Wimpey and is "considerably reassured that the scheme has now improved, particularly with the help of planning officers on the design of the houses."

The other 169 homes were granted permission in October last year, and 40 per cent of the development – a total of 190 properties – will be affordable housing.

But concerns have been raised that the new homes will increase the strain on Cowbridge's already struggling infrastructure.

Cllr Marian Arnold, who is a member of Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, which objected to the scheme, said: "I don't approve of the site. I think the infrastructure of Cowbridge just can't take it.

"We have got terrible parking problems in Cowbridge at the moment. We have long waits for doctors, the schools are full, so where everything is going to go I just don't know.

"I'm not against housing. People have to live in housing but we have to have the infrastructure and we've not got it."

Taylor Wimpey will set aside a two hectare site for a new primary school and develop a new roundabout to connect the site with the A48.

A statement on behalf of the developer, sent to the council, said: "The design and layout promotes a positive impact on safety and sustainability. Through time and occupation of the site this will generate feelings of ownership, and with that a sense of pride and security.

"There will be a mix of people of different ages, lifestyles and economic status. The variety and range of housing types in terms of dwelling size, type, tenure and affordability will help enable this."

Samantha B
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Readers' Letters

Please keep your letters BRIEF and address them to: The Editor, at Glamorgan GEM Ltd, Graig House, 53 Eastgate, Cowbridge CF71 7EL or email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

• Letters and e-mails MUST include your FULL address and a contact telephone number.

An email address alone is not sufficient!

We reserve the right to edit all letters. We do NOT accept anonymous mail.

'Do the children of closure protesters even attend Llancarfan's primary school?'

IN response to a letter published last week, 'Llancarfan – migration or closure?' – well said.

The fever with which some campaigners have taken up arms certainly demonstrates a force to be reckoned with, but I question how many are campaigning for their school, and how many for their village status.

Has the question been asked of the 'village' campaigners if their children actually attend this school?

If this question were posed, I think the answer would be very interesting and would beg the question is this campaigning truly about the children's education?

Name and address supplied.

A play on words by Vale Council

WE'D like to thank the writer of a letter in last week's GEM for the opportunity to dispel any confusion about the future of Llancarfan Primary School.

That letter accused the campaign to save the school of using "misleading" language, sowing "misinformation" and trying to "whitewash" facts.

If the current school site is closed, as envisaged under a proposal by officers of the Vale Council, existing staff will have their employment rights transferred to equivalent posts in a new school to be built in Rhoose.

Existing pupils will also have the right to attend this new school if they wish. But after the initial transfer period, children from the village and the wider district will find themselves in wholly new catchment areas, dispersed across several different primary schools.

Describing this as a "migration" is disingenuous and misleading, in much the same way that describing large-scale sackings or budget cutbacks as "downsizing" or "rationalisation" does not capture the full truth of what is really happening.

We leave it to readers to decide whether the much-loved village school in Llancarfan will be closed under this proposal or merely "migrated" to new premises—five miles away on a suburban development.

The Llancarfan School Action Committee,

Bruce the dog is on the road to recovery

I SHOULD like to thank The GEM for publishing my recent letter regarding my dog's unfortunate encounter with a rescue bitch.

As a result, this enabled the dog owner to get in touch with me and agree to pay Bruce's insurance excess.

Bruce is finally on the road to recovery following four weeks of numerous veterinary care visits. **Name and address supplied.**

Don't accept incinerator as 'done deal' says reader

NATURAL Resources Wales repeatedly said they have to follow the law on environmental permitting. Friends of the Earth see three or four areas where they clearly failed.

Also, an 'Environmental Impact Assessment' is still needed, with the impacts already clearly much more serious than the authorities claimed, so we should not accept this incinerator as a 'done deal'.

NRW did not treat public consultation seriously, in particular they provided no 'public register' of the documents they took into account, including their internal specialist assessment.

Secondly, they failed to require Biomass/Aviva to provide cost-benefit analysis of potential for using heat from the plant, when heat energy is the major part of the energy produced.

Not only is this very inefficient, but cost-benefit assessment is specifically required in law on incinerator permits.

Further, NRW failed to consider potential major accidents at the plant and their impacts on the public.

NRW also used outdated standards on air pollution, instead of accepting 'no safe levels' and applying Welsh policy on minimising polluting emissions from the stack.

NRW seemed to assess the incinerator as a 'done deal' saying the Vale Council had taken the basic decisions.

However, they failed to persuade us it was only 'gasification' and failed to mollify public criticisms. Their failures in law mean that the operating permit should be cancelled.

The above issues need properly considering via an Environmental Impact Assessment – again a legal requirement – and only after that should the company be able to reapply for an operating permit. **Keith Stockdale, Barry & Vale Friends of the Earth coordinator.**

Answers sought after recent destruction of hedges and trees

EVEN before reading the letter 'Looking out for our wild birds' in The GEM (April 26), I was shocked and dismayed to see the appalling destruction wreaked by contractors to the natural trees and vegetation on the embankment on the B4265 at Llantwit Major, east of Llanmaes Road, last week.

Approximately 200 yards of densely-covered embankment has been torn and chopped down at what is the height of the bird nesting season.

What is the reason for this work? Who are the contractors and if this was necessary, why wasn't this work carried out earlier in the year at a time which would not have been detrimental to nesting birds?

Were the necessary precautions taken as required by the Wildlife Act quoted in the aforementioned letter?

Who gave permission for the work to be carried out?

There are many people in this area who would like a prompt answer to these questions.

Mr D Phillips, Llantwit Major.

Lone 'gull cull' ruffles feathers

WHEN the word 'seagull' becomes topical, it ruffles many feathers.

People are entitled to a difference of opinion. However, when they take matters to extreme it is worrying.

After reading the article in The GEM about the gull allegedly shot dead at Barry Island, it would appear that someone decided to take matters into their own hands.

This individual is dangerous and needs to be caught and punished for this criminal action. You are entitled to your opinion, like us all. However, you are not entitled to use a 'high calibre gun' to kill a gull just because you felt like it.

(Name and address supplied)

Moveable feast

ON Saturday, April 28, a friend and I went to Penarth to have lunch and do some shopping.

We went into a lovely cafe for lunch and I was lucky enough to park outside.

I checked the parking and it was for one hour. My friend was still eating when the hour was nearly up so I had to leave and move the car.

I was lucky to find another space close by, but this was for only one hour again. By the time we finished and paid for our meal, 15 minutes of the next hour had elapsed.

We then went shopping around the town centre. Then to my annoyance I had to move the car again.

As we were looking in a shop window a friend of ours was in the shop so we all went in and had coffee. Sadly, I had to tell our friend 'sorry we have to leave'.

I hadn't finished my drink and they had to rush their coffees because, yet again, I had to move my car.

This time we came home, because I was fed up of moving my car every hour. It will be a long time before I go back to Penarth for an afternoon out.

Even if they allowed two hours of parking, it would be nice.

Karen Mortimer-Brown, Barry

Defibrillators in your area

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Barry Masonic Lodge, Masonic Hall, Broad Street, Barry, CF62 7AT
Barry Memorial Hall & Theatre, Gladstone Road, Barry, CF62 8NA
Marco's Café, Promenade, Barry, CF62 5TQ
The Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, CF62 3AS
Barry Town United AFC, Jenner Park, Barry Road, Barry, CF62 9BG
Bryn Hafren Comprehensive, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, CF62 9YG
Castleland Community Centre, Belvedere Crescent, Barry, CF64 4JZ
Lloyds Bank, 1 Windsor Road, Penarth, CF64 1YR
Lower Penarth Community Association, Brockhill Way, Penarth, CF64 5QD
Morrisons Supermarket, Penny Way, Barry, CF63 4BA
Pen y Garth School, Redland Road, Penarth, CF64 1QN
Penarth Bowls Club, Rectory Road, CF64 3AN
Penarth Mini & Junior RFC, Lavernock Road, Penarth, CF64 3QH
Penarth Pier Pavilion, The Esplanade, Penarth, CF64 3AU
Penarth Town Council, Paget Rooms, Penarth, CF64 2YG
The Bay Caravan Park, St Mary's Well Bay Road, Lavernock, CF64 5XS
Dinas Powys Bowls Club, St Andrews Road, Dinas Powys, CF64 4HB
Select Convenience Store, 27 Eastgate, Cowbridge, CF71 7EL
Edmondes Arms, 9 Cardiff Road, Cowbridge, CF71 7EP
The Star Inn, Treoes, CF35 5DL
Llantwit Major Bowls Club, Recreation Ground, Boverton Rd, Llantwit Major, CF61 1XZ
Cowbridge Town Hall, High Street, CF71 7DD

Information supplied by www.welshhearts.org.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 10)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
03 Thur	09.19	9.5	21.38	9.3
04 Fri	09.53	9.2	22.11	8.9
05 Sat	10.26	8.7	22.44	8.4
06 Sun	10.59	8.2	23.25	8.0
07 Mon	11.53	7.8		
08 Tues	00.21	7.5	12.49	7.4
09 Wed	01.32	7.3	14.12	7.3
10 Thur	02.56	7.5	15.33	7.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Dewi Hughes with his model.

Beaver Dewi amazes with his building skills

DEWI HUGHES of Cowbridge proved last week that it's not just the Beaver Scout's aquatic namesakes that know how to build.

Scouting is constantly creating new badges to encourage them to try something new and one of the latest Beaver badges to be launched is the builder badge.

The badge involves drawing up a plan for a model, creating and presenting it and then explaining the building process and materials used to fellow Beavers.

As the badge can't be covered in a meeting, the Beaver Leaders suggested some might like to have a go at home during the holidays.

Cowbridge Beaver Leader, Eluned Moran, said: "Some of the badges can seem quite challenging for a six or seven year old, but we never cease to be amazed at the creativity and determination of our young Beavers.

"When seven-year-old Dewi told us he had made a model, we saw the huge amount of thought and work he'd put into it and were genuinely amazed."

Ysgol Iolo pupil Dewi chose to build an intricate treehouse complete with zip wire death slide. Unusually, among his building materials, he'd listed granola.

When asked what it was for, he replied, 'It's for the chickens' and sure enough, Dewi had made a tiny tin foil feeding bowl for his minature chickens who were scratching around in the grass.

As he carefully packed his model back up a 'Do Not Enter' sign was noticed. The Beaver Leaders were amused to discover he'd put it on his bedroom door to stop dad from 'feeling the need to help'.

Dewi has more than one claim to fame this term; he was joined at Beavers by his two younger brothers, Gethin and Ifan, the first time the Beavers have had three siblings at the same time.

The family's commitment to Scouting doesn't end there. Julie Hughes, the boys' mother, decided to join the Leader team too. When Julie and fellow parent Claire Janczewski helped out at meetings last term, they enjoyed themselves so much they both agreed to join the team.

Eluned said: "This is great news for the Beavers – we have a long waiting list but struggle to recruit enough adults to help because we start quite early, which makes it difficult for many volunteers to commit.

"Having Julie and Claire means we have really strengthened our team and can expand the Colony. We have a really exciting and varied plan for the summer and we're looking forward to having some serious fun." **EM**

MAYOR STARTS THE 'LAST LAP' OF YEAR IN OFFICE!

by COUN SIAN VAUGHN, THE MAYOR OF COWBRIDGE WITH LLANBLETHIAN

APRIL has zoomed past. The month started with two visits to Penarth to support the Mayor of Penarth's charity events, a table top sale in the Paget Rooms on April 14 and a coffee morning in the Mayor's parlour on April 20.

The Memory Jar Cafe in Cowbridge celebrated its first birthday on April 3 with a huge birthday cake and lots of fun, including a Laurel and Hardy film.

I was invited with my consort, Rob, to Cor Bro Ogwr's Spring Concert at All Saints Church, Porthcawl. The choir was joined by four excellent soloists Erin Alexander, soprano; Polina Bielova, mezzo-soprano; Ross Wilson, tenor and Edmund Caird, conducted by Rosie Howarth.

On April 1, the RAF celebrated its 100th birthday and it is also the 80th anniversary of St Athan.

Rob and I attended a national service of celebration at St Mary's Church in Swansea on April 21, conducted by the Most Reverend John Davies, Archbishop of Wales, to mark the centenary of the RAF.

Many dignitaries were present including MPs, AMs, Air Marshal Sean Reynolds and many mayors, including the Lord Mayor of Swansea and the Lord Mayor of Cardiff.

After the service, the RAF Centenary Parade and march past took place with parade Commander Wing Commander Stephen Rowley from MoD St Athan, which we followed on foot to the Brangwyn Hall.

Wing Commander Stephen Rowley was a special guest at our coffee morning on April 7, where he came to view a RAF exhibition in the Cowbridge Museum.

The Mayor of Barry hosted a RAF 100 Service of Thanksgiving at St Mary the Blessed Virgin in Barry on April 22. Part of the celebrations included the arrival of the RAF Baton Relay into the Vale, arriving after the Swansea event.

The specially-designed baton is visiting 100 sites associated with the RAF in 100 days. The event also marked the 80th anniversary of the RAFA Barry Branch No 247.

Rob and I were pleased to support the Mayor of Llantwit's charity fundraising by attending high tea in the West House Country Hotel on April 21.

On April 30, Rob and I attended the book launch of *I, Iolo* in Cowbridge Library. The book was written by Gareth Thomas and readings from the book on the night were by Danny Grehan as Iolo and Eiry Palfrey as Peggy.

The event was packed and highly entertaining and we all learned even more about Iolo Morganwg.

The current deputy Mayor, Cllr Terry Williams, will be taking over from me May 22 with Cllr Alec Trousdell becoming deputy mayor. Many congratulations to both of them.

Finally, a reminder of my last two charity events for Cancer Research Wales – the coffee morning on Saturday, May 5 in the Mayor's Parlour at 10.30am to 12 noon and a charity ball in the Bear Hotel on Friday, May 11 from 7pm to midnight. Tickets (£35) and information on 01446 773385.

SIAN VAUGHAN

Rotary open local gardens for Tenovus

COWBRIDGE Rotary is opening six gardens in support of the Tenovus 'Closer to Home' appeal on Sunday, May 6.

The 'Closer to Home' appeal aims to raise £1m towards a state-of-the-art mobile support unit. These units are set up in local car parks, supermarkets and community venues where patients can park.

A course of chemotherapy can take anything from six weeks to six months and sometimes longer. That's a lot of journeys to hospital and every year the mobile support units save cancer patients around 45,000 miles.

Cancer rates in Wales are 14 per cent higher than in England and patients here can travel up to 150 miles for treatment. That means every round trip to hospital can cost nearly £70 and if someone relies on public transport, these journeys can take hours.

The mobile support units take pressure off over-stretched cancer centres that are already struggling to hit waiting time targets.

As part of their support for the appeal, Cowbridge Rotary are opening six gardens between 12pm and 5pm on Sunday, May 6, where tea and cakes will be available and plants and garden books will be for sale.

The varied gardens are Ty Canol, Maendy, with a wonderful use of a quarry face, Ashby House, Maendy, a conversion of a graveyard, Thira Cottage, Cowbridge, a very pretty and interesting use of space, St Quintin's Cottage, Llanblethian, a Ralph Hancock-designed garden, Gadlys Farm House, Llanmaes, a colourful Welsh cottage garden and Old Froglands, Llanmaes, a woodland and wetland garden.

Entry is £5 covering all gardens with proceeds go to Tenovus. Cowbridge Rotary would appreciate support for this excellent cause by taking the opportunity to see a variety of gardens in the area. **MDM**

Twenty 12 Flooring open new showroom

WE are really excited to be opening our new show room doors to the public on Bank Holiday Monday, May 7 at 9am.

We are embarking on a massive lifestyle change with opening our store in Ty Verlon Industrial Estate, Barry, (behind McDonald's).

For the past nine years, we have offered a home service Monday to Friday and have enjoyed the weekends off watching our three sons growing up, on the sidelines of almost every pitch in the country with rugby and football.

Sometimes we have lazed around or gone for walks – but now that will all stop as we will be opening weekends.

We have listened to our customers who wanted a showroom to see bigger samples of flooring so we have a very modern showroom room with a wide range of Carpets, Laminates, Vinyl, Wood and LVT. We will still offer our free home measuring and selection service to those who wish it.

We invite you to come along on Monday to our opening to browse around, grab a bargain, enjoy a cupcake and glass of bubbly with us. Bro Radio will also be with us until 1pm.

We hope that you will give us support and try us – if only for a quote.

Thank you to all of our customers past and present for helping us grow our business and enabling us to grow and take the next step with the showroom.

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Chamber of Trade Easter egg hunt winner

PICTURED is Rebekah Hopkin (9), a year-4 pupil at Ysgol Iolo Morgannwg, one of the winners in the Cowbridge Chamber of Trade Easter egg hunt recently.

"There were a good number of entries for the 20 prizes on offer. Thank you to all the businesses that took part," said Kate Thomas of Sylvia Williams Pharmacy.

Welsh name makes Gwerfyl a quiz wiz

AT the April meeting of the Cowbridge Friendship Club, members were pleased to welcome back Gwerfyl Gardner, who gave a talk on her experience as a quiz contestant.

Gwerfyl's experience of taking part in quizzes started when she was 12 years old and one of the members of her school team on 'Top of the Form'.

She kept the members amused with her anecdotes from the various shows she entered and in particular, when she appeared on *The Weakest Link*.

She said the reason she wasn't voted off was because the other contestants couldn't pronounce her name. Whatever the reason, she was successful in being the outright winner.

Further success followed when she was a member of the Glamorgan WI team which won *Eggheads*.

These competitions were a world away from her first experience as a quiz contestant. All expenses were paid with train fares, flights and hotels.

Gwerfyl said there could be other quiz shows she might consider entering, so who knows, she may be on television again in the future !

Everyone agreed it was a most enjoyable afternoon and members sat down to their afternoon tea of homemade sandwiches and cakes.

The Cowbridge Friendship Club has a variety of activities throughout the year. For further information, call 01446 774524.

PAT SMITH

Local man's 'passport hell' is set to end

by TIM CHAPMAN
07891 690798 or email
tim.chapman@
glamorgan-gem.co.uk

A St Athan man who has faced a 'bureaucratic nightmare' for the past two months believes he is on the verge of getting a British passport.

John Ingram, his partner Danielle, and children Ruby (8) and Alfie (5) have booked a holiday in Spain for June – but due to an unusual set of circumstances getting Mr Ingram's passport has proved a real test.

Mr Ingram has had difficulty proving he is a British citizen after being born in West Germany while his parents were serving there with the RAF. He said: "I've had six to eight weeks of pure hell. It has caused a lot of family heartbreak.

"My mother was born in Hull and my father was born in Cowbridge – you can't get much more British than that.

"Even though I have worked all my life, paid National Insurance and tax, and been here for nearly 40 years I'm still having to prove I'm British."

Mr Ingram was born in a British military hospital in 1979 but says the Home Office would not accept his birth certificate as proof of identity. It was issued by the General Register Office for England and Wales and came via a British consulate in West Germany.

Mr Ingram said: "I've supplied a birth certificate, my parents' marriage certificate, my dad's birth certificate and other documentation. How else can I prove I'm British? I've really been put through the hoops."

At one stage, Mr Ingram was asked for an MoD Armed Forces' birth certificate which does not exist. In fact, Mr Ingram has only spent two months of his life in West Germany before coming to Britain. He hasn't needed a passport before.

Mr Ingram and Danielle were starting to get concerned about whether a passport would arrive in time to go on holiday.

"It's caused a lot of upset. My daughter's been asking about it – she doesn't want to go on holiday unless we can all go."

On Tuesday this week Mr Ingram went for an interview at Newport Passport Office.

"The interview was to see if I am who I say I am. The man I spoke to said the passport might come in four to 10 days. It wasn't a definite 'yes' or 'no'. It's was a waiting game. The man told me: 'We've still got a couple of checks to do'."

Then on Tuesday afternoon he received a call from the Passport Office to say everything had been processed and that he should get his passport within the next 48 hours.

Vale MP Alun Cairns had also been in touch with the Home Office.

On Wednesday this week a Home Office spokeswoman told The GEM: "Mr Ingram has been informed yesterday (Tuesday, May 1) that his passport has been approved and will be issued within the next 48 hours."

John with Danielle and their children Ruby and Alfie.

Vanishing cat returns

Gwynno is safely back home.

THE importance of microchipping pets has been highlighted after a cat missing for more than four months was reunited with his owner in Pontyclun.

The cat was seen limping on Ely Street in the town on April 16 and was looked after by a member of the public.

The RSPCA was informed and an officer went to collect him.

Gwynno was microchipped and the charity was able to make contact with his delighted owner Paul Maddox. Gwynno had been missing since December 4 last year.

Mr Maddox took him to the vets, where he was found to have a laceration of the paw, but he is responding well to treatment.

He said: "It's strange he went missing because he had always chosen to stay on the local estate. "But he's quite a cheeky cat and has been known to get into people's cars before, so we wonder if he inadvertently hitched a ride somewhere.

"We were over the moon to get the call from the RSPCA. Without the chip, I sincerely doubt we'd ever have seen Gwynno again."

Headway benefits from Rotary cheque

David Harris presents the cheque to Headway's Lucy Lawler.

ON Monday, April 16, Cowbridge Rotary Club president David Harris presented a cheque for £1,000 to Lucy Lawler, who gave a talk to the club about Headway.

Headway is a charity that promotes understanding of all aspects of brain injury and provides information, support and services to people with brain injuries, their families and carers.

ML

CAOS puts on Spring concerts

,For their Spring Concert this year CAOS Musical Society is presenting 'American Musicals Coast to Coast'.

It's a musical journey across America featuring songs from *Singing in the Rain, Wicked, The Wizard of Oz, Chicago, Hairspray, Guys and Dolls, West Side Story* and more.

It takes place at the Paul Lewis Community Centre, St Athan, on Friday, May 11, and at the Stewart Road Community Centre, Rhoose, on Saturday, May 12 at 7.30pm.

Tickets are £7 with £5 concession for under-16s and over-60s and are available on the door or can be reserved from 01446 796353.

CB

Mr Graham Phillips
Grateful thanks to a Cowbridge charity stalwart

THE Trustees of Cowbridge with Llanblethian United Charities were saddened by the recent death of Graham Phillips.

Graham was a huge asset to the charity, having served as a Trustee for four years before becoming clerk to the Trustees in 2001.

Part of an old Cowbridge family, Graham was a good friend to many and his knowledge of Cowbridge and its residents was extensive, proving invaluable to the Trustees for over 16 years before his retirement last November.

Despite nursing his beloved wife, June, for many years, he was still able to give unstintingly to the charity and even when he was in poor health himself, he endeavoured to hand over the reins to Alison Blackwell, the new clerk, as smoothly as possible.

The Trustees are grateful for Graham's immeasurable support over the years which has enabled them to continue to give assistance to students, the elderly and those experiencing financial hardship who are resident in Cowbridge and Llanblethian.

The clerk to the Trustees of Cowbridge with Llanblethian United Charities, Alison Blackwell, can be contacted on 01446 771816, or email cwluc.clerk@gmail.com

Wick cyclist 'thrilled' with first games experience

RIGHT: Pete Kibble took part in the road race, in which Team Wales took silver.

WICK cyclist Pete Kibble has returned home from the Commonwealth Games after what he describes as "an incredible experience" representing Wales.

Mr Kibble (20), came 15th in the individual time trail and 41st in the road race, a team event.

He said: "It was an incredible first games experience for me. I'd like to thank all the people who have helped and made it possible along the way especially Welsh Cycling and Sport Wales."

Mr Kibble had his parents Carol and Phil supporting him and he was able to spend time with them before – and after – his events.

"I began my games campaign with the individual time trial. I didn't have the highest expectations going into this as I'm not the most suited rider to a time trial being small and light.

"However, after seeing the course and how lumpy it was, I was pleasantly surprised. It suited my strengths quite well. Pinning my number on and setting off down the start ramp in the national kit for the first time was such a fantastic feeling and filled me with pride.

"There was so much Welsh support along the way which motivated me even more.

"The sounds of the crowd just carried me down the first section along Currumbin beach front, but at the same time I didn't want to get carried away as there was still a long way to go and some gruelling climbs.

"I just gave everything I had and emptied the tank. I was so happy to come away with 15th as it far exceeded my personal expectations.

"It was also nice to spend a bit of time in the leader's hot seat. This ride also gave me a bit more confidence in my legs ahead of the road race which was just four days later.

"The road race was on a short lap at 18km with two steep kicks on each lap but the rest of the course was pretty fast. This was always going to make for an unpredictable and very tough race.

"Come race day, our job was to cover all breakaways and make sure a Welsh rider was always represented up the road, which we managed to do.

"We had to look after our medal hopes in Luke Rowe and Jon Mould. The pace was full on for the first hour and a half. I was riding on the limit, chasing moves especially by the Australian riders.

"The race was pretty relentless. My day was done with half a lap to go and I felt pretty satisfied that I'd given it my all for the role I'd been given.

"In the dash for the line Jon, Mould managed to bag himself a silver medal.

"I was over the moon to hear this when I crossed the line. It was a super special feeling to be part of such a great team."

Steel Von Hoff took gold for Australia.

Quiz raises funds for defibrillator

BONVILSTON Reading Room was host to a quiz night on April 28 when 50 villagers and friends gathered to pit their wits against local quizmaster Rob.

Quizmaster Rob Hunt.

The quiz night raised almost £700 and on top of that, a cheque was presented for another £300, making a grand total of £1,000 for the evening.

A big thank you goes to Gareth Esplin from Cowbridge First Responders, who arranged the grant and presented the cheque.

Another thank you goes to Rob Hunt and his assistant Suzi for their hard work in preparing and running the quiz.

Rob also hosts the quiz in the Red Lion and the next one takes place on Thursday, May 24 at 8.30pm.

Thanks also go to everyone who helped, donated and supported the event.

When added to the sum raised at the St Dwynwen's Day event, there are now sufficient funds to purchase the first defibrillator.

From a conversation between Nia and Rosemary in January to having all the funds in place four months later is quite an achievement.

PF

The GEM helps reunite old pals after 80 years

Enjoying a pint as they catch up on the past 80 years.

Got a story? Then get in touch with us - email editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk or call 01446 774484

FOLLOWING John Jenkins' visit to The Star Inn, Wick in January for his 90th birthday – which was featured in The GEM – he was delighted to receive a telephone call from Bill Austin, a former fellow pupil of Wick Primary School back in the 1930s who had fortuitously read the article! They promptly arranged to meet – at The Star of course – and proceeded to catch up on old times.

John said it was "unbelievable, wonderful and incredible" to meet after such a long time and Bill agreed with this. They reminisced over their school days and what had happened to other old schoolchildren from those days, and Bill who still lives in Wick, was able to provide many answers.

They shared their old photos and remarkably, Bill had a photo of John's sister and John actually had one of Bill himself which they were delighted to exchange. They were saddened to think that the school had since been demolished.

Among the many things they discussed were the events that took place in the 1920s and 1930s, when the gypsies arrived in the village twice a year with their gleaming, clean caravans, and piebald horses, parking on the land in front of The Star.

The women sold pegs and other wares around the village, accompanied by their menfolk who sharpened knives and scissors.

The Salt man also used to arrive with his horse and flat cart piled high with large blocks of salt which he sold around the farms. Horse races were held in the field opposite The Star.

They discovered another happy coincidence in that Bill's daughter-in-law had been John's grand-daughter's specialist audiology doctor throughout her entire childhood, and they were very well known to each other with Dr English giving massive support to Hannah and helping to set her up for the future, despite her hearing loss.

Little did they know they had such a connection.

They both agreed that although they were hard times, they both had very happy childhoods and were very fond of Wick and its people. They shook hands and promised to meet more often in the future.

LJ

John and Bill outside the pub.

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RYAN HELPS WALES LAND WORLD CROWN

The Wales Deaf Rugby team beat England in the World Sevens Final.

A DINAS Powys rugby player starred for Wales Deaf Rugby as they landed the title of World Sevens Champions in Australia.

Ryan Shallish (25) who plays as a flanker for Dinas Powys, scored a try against England in the final.

It proved a real nail-biter with Wales winning in the last minute.

Mr Shallish told The GEM: "We were trailing by two tries at one stage. I thought we were going to get beaten, but we dug really deep.

"I scored a try which made it 14–15, and our captain scored the winning try and we won 21–15.

"With the last play of the match, I kicked the ball into touch and we started to celebrate. I'm so proud, and thankful to all my supporters, my dad and family."

Mr Shallish, a former pupil of St Cyres who spends time helping deaf young youngsters at the school, was named Player of the Tournament, which was held at the University of South Wales.

He has also received messages on Facebook from other deaf people who wrote how 'inspired' they were by his performances.

His father Neil said: "He was also named Wales 'Player of the Tour'.

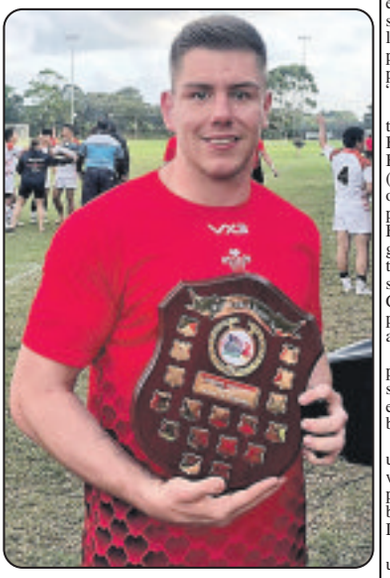
"The English Rugby Union took the time to write to him, congratulating him on how he had conducted himself with Wales both on and off the pitch – that was great coming from another country."

In fact, it proved the perfect tournament for Wales; not only did they beat arch rivals England in the final, they defeated renowned Sevens specialists Fiji in the semi-final.

His father added: "I'm so proud of Ryan's achievements. Some deaf people keep themselves to themselves. Sport has encouraged him to come out of his shell.

"He has really come along and had a fantastic few years."

SB



Ryan Shallish from Dinas Powys scored eight tries and was named 'Player of the Tournament'.

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BCBC considering closure of ALL sixth forms in county

A SHAKE-up of post-16 education in Bridgend county is underway with the closure of all sixth forms, mergers and greater collaboration among some of the options being considered.

The review comes after a £460,000 drop in post-16 funding for the local authority from Welsh Government as a result of falling student numbers due to demographics, and the loss of grant funds to cover transport costs.

Financial pressure has also led to a "steady erosion" in the range of subjects offered with the loss of 10 subjects in the past few years and 16 potentially on the "endangered list".

Presenting a report on the proposals at a Bridgend County Borough Council (BCBC) cabinet meeting on Tuesday April 24, post-16 officer John Fabes said: "It is generally recognised by the local authority, schools and Bridgend College that the current partnership arrangements are not fit for purpose.

"From a learner perspective, there are significant anomalies and equity issues across the borough."

The council has drawn up a list of six concepts which will go out to public consultation between June and December.

The six concepts under consideration are:

• Concept 1 – The retention of sixth forms in all schools – the 'status quo'.

• Concept 2 – The closure of all sixth forms and the development of a local authority maintained sixth form centre.

• Concept 3 – The closure of all sixth forms and the development of a further education (FE) college-governed sixth form centre.

• Concept 4 – A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new local authority maintained sixth form centre(s).

• Concept 5 – A mix of school sixth forms with some mergers to create new FE college-governed sixth form centre(s)

• Concept 6 – A full tertiary model governed by the FE sector.

The council's preferred options are concepts four and five.

While capital funding bids for the development of sixth form centres can take years to finalise, the council is proposing a number of short to medium term measures.

It aims to "significantly improve" the collaboration among existing sixth forms and Bridgend College, with plans for integrated timetables and shared resources.

The proposals include all schools having a common timetable arrangement for their post-16 provision with lessons all starting and finishing at the same time, and a shared lunchtime.

A common sixth form option structure would be introduced with the 50-plus subjects available to all post-16 students and Bridgend College would be invited to offer a range of vocational courses in each of the option blocks.

A new student transport system would be set up to shuttle students between centres depending on what subjects they choose.

It is expected that the use of "blending learning" which includes a mix of online learning and traditional classroom methods will also be expanded.

Mr Fabes said the idea is that schools will jointly and strategically plan the post-16 offer.

The council aims to start work with schools this summer on the proposals to be ready for implementation in September 2019.

Recent reviews with schools revealed there was "significant support" for change.

Further details on the consultation and process will come before the council's cabinet next month.

The estimated increase in costs for student transport between schools is £100,000 with an overall cost estimated to be £165,000. Mr Fabes said the costs would be offset by savings resulting from a reduction in teaching sets.

LDR

COMMUNITY NEWS

TREOES, LLANGAN, & ST MARY HILL

from Nancy Davidge, Tynewydd, Llangan. 01656 860303

LLANGAN SCHOOL

EVERYONE at the school are very grateful to the Dads Club and friends of Llangan who work tirelessly to enhance life at the school.

On Sunday, April 28 the dads were working at the school to build a mud kitchen for the nursery pupils.

The school also have some artistic parents who have offered to make some chalk board murals around the school.

The visit to the school on Friday, April 27 by PCSO Angela Stone was a great success.

The children were shown how to take fingerprints and the use of handcuffs.

PET SERVICE

THE service which took place at St Canna's, Llangan on Sunday, April 22 was well attended with children and a variety of pets – mostly dogs and one pet lamb.

Hopefully, this will be an annual event.

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Penllyn Court open day raises £1,500 for NGS

PHOTOGRAPHS by MIKE WILCOCK

On Sunday afternoon Jo and Johnny Homfray opened their garden at Penllyn Court for The National Gardens Scheme (NGS), which supports nine different charities throughout the UK.

These are the caring organisations, Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Hospice UK, Carers Trust, Queen's Nursing Institute, Parkinsons UK, Perennial, MS Society, and the National Autistic Society.

Despite the chill in the air, the community was extremely supportive and an amazing £1,500 was raised for the NGS.

The National Gardens Scheme has also pledged to make a remarkable donation of £2.5 million over five years through Macmillan Cancer Support towards funding the new specialist cancer care unit at Y Bwthyn in South Wales, which goes to show that every little helps when it comes to all these private gardens being opened under The National Gardens Scheme.

Jackie Thomas organised delicious refreshments for the open day and the money raised through this - a magnificent £700 - will go towards Brain Tumour Research.

Enormous thanks to all those who helped to make this occasion such a success, whether it was in baking cakes or helping out.

Penllyn Court will also be open again on September 2 from 2pm to 6pm. This time the tea money will be going to Y Bwthyn, a special place that enables our loved ones to pass away cocooned in care.

JH

Hot stuff. Nicky Piper puts gloves on again and scores a knockout

COLWINSTON is a village well known for its close-knit community, having recently reached the semi finals for Channel 4's 'Britain's Best Village'.

However, it could soon be well known for its good food if a recent curry competition is anything to go by.

Residents decided to hold a 'Curry Off' to raise money for a new children's playground, and were delighted when the award-winning Cowbridge restaurant, The Shampan, decided to sponsor and judge the competition.

They sent top chef, Ashi Aravind and food consultant, Sue Tasher to choose the winners, and they were treated to 10 curries, featuring slow-cooked Welsh lamb with toasted spices and yoghurt, Indonesian fish curry, lamb korma, aubergine and home-made paneer curry served with twmpath wild garlic pakora, Mauritian chicken curry, butter chicken, and vegan aubergine curry.

Ashi was astounded with the quality of food: "It has taken me over and hour to decide upon the winners and I have tasted each curry at least three times.

"Every curry was well presented and tasted delicious. Some contestants went to the bother of wild foraging for fresh local ingredients, such as wild garlic and the quality of every one was very high."

Food consultant, Sue, said: "I have travelled all over India, so I know the different styles of cooking and I was impressed with the authenticity of the food presented here today."

In a very close competition, former champion boxer, Nicky Piper, was chosen as the winner with his lamb korma.

His prize will be to have his recipe on the menu of The Shampan restaurant – so if you are interested, pop along soon. Second place went to Lynne Flux with her Indonesian fish curry, and third place went to Katherine Theron with a vegan aubergine curry.

The winners were announced at an evening Curry & Quiz where all curries were eaten by 80 villagers and more than £800 was raised for the new village playground.

AS

Judge Ashi Aravind and winner, Nicky Piper.

Judge Ashi Aravind judges curries.

Leon raises £2,000 for cardio charity

Leon finished the London Marathon in 3 hours and 11 minutes.

LEON LIMA, who was featured in The GEM recently, completed the London Marathon on April 22 and raised over £2,000 for Cardiomyopathy UK.

He finished in 3 hours and 11 minutes.

He was inspired in his marathon challenge by his son Luka, aged three, who has been diagnosed with the life-threatening illness.

Leon attended Barry Comprehensive School and now works as a teacher in Bournemouth.

TC

Barry welcomes RAF centenary baton relay

CADETS of 372 ATC Barry marked 100 years since the RAF was formed, and were handed the Centenary Baton as part of its 2018 relay.

The cadets travelled to Barry's King Square in a 1964 Cardiff double decker bus, on April 14.

Members of Barry RAFA branch, the Vale Mayor Cllr Janice Charles, and Barry town Mayor, Nic Hodges, were handed the Centenary Baton, which was designed by students of the No 4 School of Technical Training at MoD St Athan.

Mayor Charles, said: "It was an honour to receive the Centenary Baton on behalf of Barry, to mark 100 years since the RAF was formed.

"It is important that we remember the sacrifices made by members of the RAF, and those younger generations such as Barry cadets, are inspired by this anniversary and recognise the importance of the centenary."

The Royal Air Force celebrated its 100th birthday on April 1, 2018, and marked the occasion by reflecting on its history, achievements and the work it is currently undertaking.

A church service was held at St Mary's Church in Barry, on April 22, to recognise the Barry branch's 80th anniversary.

The baton will visit 100 sites associated with the RAF in 100 days and will end its journey on July 10, at Horseguards Parade in Westminster.

The students pitched their designs to the Chief of the Air Staff, Air Chief Marshal Sir Stephen Hillier, who decided the baton would be constructed using brass, wood, aluminium, steel, and carbon aerofoil wing cross-sections, symbolising aircraft construction through the ages.

The baton will be handed to members of the RNLI in Barry, who will take it by sea to Nash Point, where Porthcawl RNLI will hand it over to Porthcawl RAFA.

JB

'Meeting inspiring women has been a delight'

ASSEMBLY NOTES

by VALE AM JANE HUTT

OVER the past few weeks, I have been meeting inspiring women who are making a contribution to the community such as Soraya Kelly, who has launched a personal cancer campaign.

She visited the Senedd with her team and we 'put on our gloves' to show we were united in supporting her campaign #theglovesareon.

Having been through breast cancer, she is determined to support others and raise awareness of her campaign.

This fits well with other women leading campaigns such as Lesley Woolcock's sister and family who drew attention to ovarian cancer at the Mother's Day walk in Barry in March.

I was also delighted to join Pam Allinson at the Barry and District Soroptomists 50th anniversary celebrations at the Memorial Hall last month.

Pam was a tireless campaigner for Breast Cancer Now and set up Breast Friends in Barry which meets in Barry Hospital once a month.

Pam is recovering from a stroke but is making great progress at Barry Hospital, near to family and friends.

Kay Ann Clarke is another pioneering woman from Barry who is involved in the pensions inequality campaign.

I recently paid tribute to Kay and campaigners from the Vale at a debate in the Senedd. She has brought women together who are affected by changes to state pensions which have detrimentally affected many women born in the 1950s.

They have raised concerns about the lack of notification about the UK Government pension changes which have forced many women into hardship after years of working and caring for their families.

I would also like to congratulate Cllr Jayne Norman and Cllr Margaret Wilkinson for taking the period poverty proposals through the Vale Council last week. I will be praising their initiative in a debate in the Senedd this week.

They drew attention to women and girls who are not able to afford sanitary protection. The Welsh Government has announced £1m to help schools and local authorities address this important issue to provide appropriate facilities and support for our young people.

I mentioned these campaigns and inspiring women at the Wales Assembly of Women Conference last Saturday, organised by inspiring Vale women Dr Jane Salisbury and Dr Eleri Evans, who were honouring Audrey Jones who was a formidable teacher and campaigner for women's rights.

She taught Dame Tanni Grey Thompson at St Cyres School, who said of her teacher: "She was an amazing teacher…a massive influence on my life."

We now have annual Audrey Jones Awards for women undertaking academic study and I was proud to make the awards at the conference with Robert Jones, Audrey's son.

Jean Silvan Evans, of Peterston super Ely, has been researching the life of Audrey Jones at the Glamorgan Archives and we heard more about her remarkable life and influence in Wales – including her evidence to the UN on a number of occasions regarding the status of women in society.

On June 10, we will be processing through Cardiff to honour and remember the suffragettes and all those women who have made a difference to our lives inspiring us to do more.

On May 18, I will be joining the 2018 Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival organised by Valeways, and I hope there will be a great turnout for the Women's Trail walk, starting in Bron Y Mor Knap car park at 10.30am, to visit some of the houses and places of importance to women in Barry who have made their mark over the years.

These include a former suffragette, Annie Gwen Vaughan Jones, who lived in Porth y Castell. She was secretary of the Cardiff and District Women's Suffrage Society.

Also, Lucy Dickenson, who started up the SAFE Foundation, which is now expanding its work across the world.

We must continue to mark the centenary of the start for women getting the vote as we address the inequalities that still prevail – especially in relation to the gender pay gap, with latest figures showing that 78 per cent of companies pay men more than women.

The ongoing campaign to tackle violence against women in Wales is coming to the fore, and we know how many women and men are working hard to tackle these inequalities here in the Vale and in Wales.

Mayor to relocate 'to save costs'

THE Vale Council hopes to save thousands of pounds by restructuring how the mayor's office operates.

This is part of the council's drive to hit a savings target of £6.2 million in 2018-19.

The role of the Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan is ceremonial and non-political, and he or she represents the council at civic functions. The mayor also supports local charities and community organisations.

On April 30, a report on how the mayor's office should operate in the future was agreed by the Vale Cabinet.

The mayor's budget for 2017-18 amounted to £30,500, and with support costs, it rose to £85,000.

The report proposed a relocation of the mayor's office from the town hall to the civic offices with a building saving cost of £24,500. The council also believes the mayoral budget can be cut from £30,500 to £20,000.

The council hopes the Mayor's Parlour in the town hall can be let.

The council hopes the total savings of the restructuring could be as much as £85,000.

The position of mayor and deputy mayor are not in danger and the council believes further savings could be made in the future. The mayor will continue to chair full council meetings and represent the council at important functions.

Cllr Ian Johnson had written to the cabinet asking that the use of the town hall be limited to non-housing related purposes.

In his letter, he said: "…I am concerned that declaring Vale Council mayoral office space at the town hall surplus to requirements without conditions may lead to unintended consequences that would not be beneficial to Barry town centre."

Cllr John Thomas, leader of Vale Council, told Monday's meeting: "I do concur with Cllr Johnson. There was never any intention for the town hall to be used for housing purposes."

A new 'Mayor's Fund' has also been set up to make up to £5,000 available to 'good causes'.

Cllr Leighton Rowlands, the Vale Council's mayor-elect for 2018-19, said: "As mayor-elect, I have been working with the Leader to develop a scheme that will see the mayor's office used to raise awareness of local charities and community groups.

"This new Mayor's Fund will follow the principle established by the council's Strong Communities Grant Fund and will allow local organisations within the Vale the opportunity to apply to receive small donations throughout the year." **GR**

PACT meetings

Meetings in Barry

WHY not come along to **Gibbonsdown** 'Cuppa with a Copper' which is held every Monday morning at the Aberaeron HUB, Aberaeron Close between 10am and 12 noon?

Gibbonsdown PACT will be held at the Residents Board Office, Coychurch Rise Barry on Tuesday, May 8 at 10.30am.

Cadoc 'Cuppa with a Copper' will be held at Victoria Park Community Centre every Monday morning between 10am and 11am.

Castleland 'Cuppa with a Copper' at Atlantic Café, Wimbourne Road, Barry between 10.30am and 12 noon on Tuesday, May 8.

Meetings in Penarth

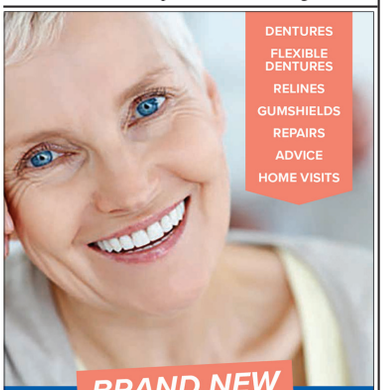
YOU can meet your local officers at **Penarth Library** on Thursday, May 3 between 10am and 11am.

Meetings in the Vale

ST BRIDES 'coffee and chat' will be held at the Golden Cups, Southerndown on Thursday, May 3 at 11am.

Llantwit Major Police Surgery will be held on Thursday, May 3 at Llantwit Major Library between 10.30am and 11.30am.

If you have any issues that are affecting your quality of life but are unable to attend a meeting, contact 101 for non emergencies or log onto: www.south-wales.police.uk where you will find contact details for your local PCSO and you can contact them directly for non emergency matters.



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BRIDGE OF SPIES AT COMMUNITY CINEMA

THE next film at All Saints Community Cinema, Penarth, on Thursday, May 17, will be *Bridge of Spies*, directed and co-produced by Steven Speilberg, starring Tom Hanks, Mark Rylance, Amy Ryan and Alan Alda.

Mark Rylance won the best supporting Oscar for his performance in this film.

Set during the Cold War, the film tells the story of lawyer James B Donovan, who is entrusted with negotiating the release of Francis Gary Powers – an American Air Force pilot whose U-2 spy plane was shot down over the soviet Union in 1960 – in exchange for Rudolf Abel, a convicted Soviet KGB spy.

For tickets call Jane on 07966 882459.

Cardiff Airport working towards 'Real Living Wage'

GEM reader David Alexander wrote to us to express his views on the rates of pay of security staff at Cardiff Airport. The GEM contacted the airport for a response which follows.

Mr Alexander wrote:

Having acquired a lovely new granddaughter, a little Welsh/Dutch girl, my wife and I have taken regular visits to Amsterdam through Cardiff Airport.

Travelling by air more frequently than our previous annual dose of Greek sunshine, I discovered to my horror that the people who work tirelessly to ensure our safety – the security staff – are, apparently, paid less than the 'real living wage' (£8.79 an hour).

If these were security people in a museum who sit on a seat in the corner guarding against the hugely remote possibility that someone will try to steal a Titian it might be a different matter.

Working the security gate at an airport is a totally different task.

These people work under constant pressure to get large groups of people checked and through security as efficiently as possible.

They have deal with all sorts of people with patience, tact and courtesy – from disabled people who need special help, to people of various faiths and ethnicities who may need to be dealt with differently, to sports fans, stag parties and hen parties full of high spirits who might need a little diplomatic calming down.

A very difficult aspect of their job is having to enforce regulations that some people object to – having to confiscate items that cannot be taken on board a plane in hand luggage for example.

Occasionally, and it is very occasionally, those objections can become vehement or even abusive or threatening.

The security gate is the 'front line' in ensuring the safety of aircraft passengers; the staff on that gate do all the above while being constantly vigilant to ensure that safety.

I don't think it is it fair or acceptable that on top of that pressure the security staff are paid so little that they have to struggle to pay their bills. My view is that the people who give such sterling service, in such an important role, deserve at least a decent living wage.

The airport security staff are being assisted, along with other groups who are poorly paid, by 'Citizens Cymru'.

So far negotiations with the airport management have, I'm led to believe, been unsuccessful.

I will be joining with others in a day of protest on May 1, which is International Workers Day; readers who would like add their support can contact jonathan.cox@citizenswales.org.uk.

In response, a spokeswoman for Cardiff Airport said: "For clarity concerning wages, Cardiff Airport already pays above the National Living Wage for all staff – both above and below the age of 25.

"We are also committed to working towards achieving the Real Living Wage with a pledge to have this in place by April 2020, subject to the airport moving back to a position of profitability by that date.

"This position was agreed with the recognised unions in 2016.

"The current union-agreed pay award sets pay levels until April 2019.

"Based on planning and assumptions, we are currently aiming to ensure that airport staff, across all departments, are paid at least the Real Living Wage by 2020.

"The phased approach is essential to ensure the long-term sustainability of the airport business, securing jobs and future growth.

"Cardiff Airport is on a robust recovery plan and we are proud of the progress achieved since the change to Welsh Government ownership in 2013. The airport was at the lowest point in its history, making significant losses and was in very real danger of being closed, with the subsequent loss of up to 2,000 jobs across the airport site.

"Our focus is on continuing the journey of growth and improvement, whilst delivering a sustainable airport for Wales and protecting the 250 members of staff and the 2,600 indirect and induced jobs in the region.

"The airport also significantly benefits the local economy with an overall GVA (gross value added) impact of £102 million."

Car hits rocks at Ogmore-by-Sea

THE police attended an incident at Ogmore By Sea car park on Monday, April 30, after a car went onto the rocks.

A spokeswoman explained: "Officers responded to calls raising concern for a member of the public whose car had gone onto the rocks at around 1.19pm.

"The Welsh Ambulance Service were also in attendance."

A Welsh Ambulance spokesman said: "We were called at shortly before 2pm to reports a car had collided with rocks at Ogmore-by-Sea.

"We sent a crew in an emergency ambulance and a man was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend with minor injuries."

TC

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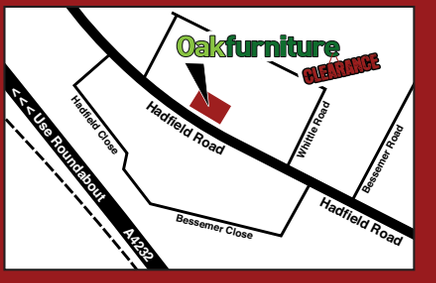

Farmers are out in force for a tractor run in support of the Ed Evans Foundation

PHOTOGRAPHS by GLYN EVANS

OTHER PICTURES ARE AVAILABLE FROM THIS EVENT.

Pictures can be purchased by contacting:

E-Mail: ffotoimage@tiscali.co.uk
Telephone 07791 228684
www.ffotoimage.co.uk

THE rural community in the Vale was out in force recently for a tractor run in aid of the Ed Evans Foundation.

The convoy of vehicles made their way around the Vale, and GEM photographer Glyn Evans was on hand to capture these images.

CARE LEAVERS EXEMPT FROM COUNCIL TAX UNTIL THEY ARE 25

THE Vale Council has agreed to exempt care leavers from paying council tax in a move designed to 'ease the pressure on them as they embark on adult life'.

It comes after Barry councillor Vincent Bailey raised the issue in full council in December.

The council has dispensation under the Local Government Finance Act (1992) to provide council tax relief to certain groups. The local authority's cabinet agreed to extend this to care leavers at a meeting on April 30.

Cllr Bailey said the measure was designed to help a group of people who were often setting out on life alone because they didn't have family support.

"Care leavers face disproportionately high barriers to gaining employment and education, and a council tax exemption will remove some of the financial pressures they face.

"It's tough enough for any young person setting out to live alone, but for someone leaving care without the support of their parents, managing money can be a huge task.

"This is about giving a helping hand to some of the most vulnerable members of society – and I am proud to have helped raise the profile of this serious issue."

Cllr John Thomas, Leader of the council, said: "Children and young people who are looked after by the local authority, rather than their parents, are among the most vulnerable in our communities.

"Care leavers face a great many challenges when they move into independent accommodation and begin to manage their own finances fully for the first time. The move we have agreed is designed to make this transition a little easier.

"Although the number of people likely to receive this discount is very small, it has the potential to have a hugely beneficial impact on their lives and so I am delighted to have been able to bring it into effect."

The exemption will apply to all care leavers until they reach the age of 25. It will cover the full cost of any council tax due and will be backdated to April 1, 2018.

The council estimates that the cost will be less than £10,000 a year.

GR

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Art fair

FOLLOWING the success of the community art exhibition 'Visual Perspectives' which ran throughout April, a Community Art Fair will be held at the Old Hall, Cowbridge throughout May.

The gallery is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10am-4pm. Contact christine@icreateart.co.uk if you wish to exhibit/sell any of your current art work.

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Dog breeder who made £50,000 by mis-selling puppies receives a suspended sentence

A DOG breeder has received a suspended sentence and a curfew after Cardiff Crown Court heard how she had advertised puppies for sale that she did not have, lied about their genetic make-up and overbred her animals.

Following a successful prosecution by the Vale Council, Lisa Canning was sentenced to 30 weeks on each of five counts, suspended for two years together with 200 hours of unpaid work to be completed in 12 months and a four-month night time curfew.

Canning made around £50,000 from the unlawful trade through her business 4 Small Paws, which was based first at East Aberthaw and then Castle-upon-Alun, selling dogs through such websites as Pets4Hones, Preloved Pets and Gumtree.

Less than a week before her Crown Court trial was due to begin, she pleaded guilty to four counts of fraud and one of engaging in unfair commercial practice.

Ms Canning was selling dogs as sought-after breeds for high prices, suggesting they had full vaccination and medical histories.

But the investigation revealed a very different story about their background and there was often no record of any veterinary procedures having been carried out.

Some dogs had been acquired from unknown sources and locations, while others had been bred in breach of the terms of her licence.

Ms Canning claimed to sell Cockerpoos, Cocker Spaniels, Chocolate Labradors, Cavipoos, Pugs and Scottish Terriers, though some of the dogs weren't what they appeared.

One family purchased what they thought was a Cockerpoo, a cross between a Cocker Spaniel and a Miniature Poodle, for £650 but DNA tests revealed the dog was actually 25 per cent Miniature Poodle, 25 per cent Toy Poodle and 50 per cent Bichon Frise.

Another individual was told they had bought a Golden Labrador after parting with £750, only for DNA tests to prove it was actually 37.5 per cent Labrador Retriever, 12.5 per cent Golden Retriever and 50 per cent Cocker Spaniel.

Both dogs were sold with no paperwork to verify their breed and medical history, and only a voucher offering four weeks' free insurance was provided. In both of the above cases, the dates of birth proved to be questionable, and the exact age of the puppies was therefore unknown.

At Ms Canning's kennels, dogs fell pregnant more often than was permitted and some before they were legally old enough, meaning she was producing more animals than allowed.

Following Ms Canning's arrest, a number of animals were placed with Hope Rescue, a local dog rescue charity that works in partnership with the Council.

Ms Canning also engaged in a practice known as 'bait advertising', which involves advertising an animal a person does not own in order to entice a customer to buy another.

Customers were also misled by being directed to purchase Canning's puppies from a friend of hers who posed as a private breeder.

Yhe court was told that, in total, more than 100 puppies were unlawfully sold, though Ms Canning's chaotic record keeping meant it was impossible to establish the exact number.

In passing sentence, Judge Crowther QC told Lisa Canning that her actions were calculated to defraud the public and she had criminally enriched herself to the tune of £50,000. She had a long-standing licence to breed dogs that imposed restrictions and she breached every one.

He said: "It wasn't simply failure to not have regard to a licence, you took other measures to avoid conditions. This was a front for puppy farms and a conduit through which those maligned businesses operate. This wasn't a victimless crime; the harm is that you play on people's emotions, children especially."

Canning was ordered to pay a total of £46,595 in costs, compensation of £3,095 and a victim surcharge.

Cllr Hunter Jarvie, a member of the Shared Regulatory Services Joint Committee, said: "This business was operating fraudulently on a large scale with absolutely no regard for the rules and regulations put in place to protect both animals and customers.

"Hard work from Shared Regulatory Services officers, on behalf of the council, has ensured this individual has been brought to justice.

"The Vale Council will not tolerate this kind of operation, which defrauds people looking for pets out of significant sums of money and mistreats animals. I hope the severity of the punishment handed out acts as a deterrent to others thinking of committing similar offences."

Vanessa Waddon, Founder of Hope Rescue, added: "When we took in four of Ms Canning's Cocker Spaniels, all of which were heavily pregnant, the effects of these young dogs being used as nothing more than breeding machines were clear to see. As well as having various health issues, they were all completely withdrawn and wary of human contact.

"We spent several thousands of pounds taking care of the dogs and their pups that were all born in our care, picking up the cost of Ms Canning's neglect.

"She was clearly putting profit above the wellbeing of the dogs, and our thanks go to the Vale Council for pursuing this case to ensure she faced justice." **CS**

Some of the puppies were not what they appeared.

Keen bargain Hunters head for mid Wales

ON Bank Holiday weekend (May 5 and 6), the International Antique and Home and Vintage Fair of Wales returns to the Royal Welsh Showground, Builth Wells.

The twice-yearly show has two sets of TV shows coming to film at the event. *Bargain Hunt* will be filming four shows over the two days which will he aired in the autumn.

A spokesperson said: "*Bargain Hunt* is a regular visitor to the show and have been filming for many years with different presenters.

"The second TV crew is from *Salvage Hunters*, where Drew, an antique dealer, hunts out items to restore and then re-sell at a later date. This is their first visit to the Antique Home and Vintage Show which has been running for 15 years."

The fair opens on Saturday, May 5 morning at 8.30am and closes at 5pm. It then re-opens on Sunday morning at 10am and closes at 5pm.

For further information, call Continuity Fairs on 0770 3558600.

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Search and rescue drones tested

THE RNLI and Maritime and Coastguard Agency tested drones in search and rescue scenarios off the Vale coastline last week.

The aim was to use a selection of drones to explore whether they could be helpful in saving lives in the future.

The scenarios being tested were a shoreline search for a casualty; an offshore search for multiple casualties in the sea; a mud rescue and a communications blackspot where a drone is required to relay information between rescue teams and a casualty on a cliff.

Hannah Nobbs, of the RNLI's innovation team, explained: "The aim of the event was to provide realistic scenarios and an authentic operating environment to explore the use of drones in multi-agency operations.

"We hope this will allow us to understand the benefits and limitations of their use in search and rescue activity.

"The week-long test event was the culmination of around two years of work, where we've explored the use of drones in collaboration with key search and rescue partners and industry experts.

"The RNLI has a proud history of embracing new technology – from cork lifejackets in the 1800s to the design and build of our waterjet-propelled Shannon class lifeboat.

"So, it's very exciting for us to now explore the potential use of drones in search and rescue activity, in partnership with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency."

Phil Hanson of the MCA, said that while drones can't replicate what helicopters can do, they could become a vital new tool for rescuers.

"There is significant evidence emerging from our overseas counterparts and more locally from UK mountain rescue teams indicating that drones can play a crucial role in emergency response.

"It's too early to comment on how we will move forward from the trials but one thing we all agree on is that drones cannot replace helicopters, coastguard rescue teams or lifeboats. However, it is entirely possible that they could be an additional tool to use in search and rescue."

The RNLI and MCA were helped in carrying out the tests by Lockheed Martin UK, Scisys and the University of Bath.

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Out & About with The GEM

'SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE' AT VALE WALKING FESTIVAL

THE 2018 Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival programme is "probably the most inclusive we've yet devised," according to the organiser, Valeways Festival chair, Marion Eynon, with something for everyone.

The theme is 'The Year of the Sea,' but there's no need to be a hardcore coastal hiker to take part in the festival, which starts on Tuesday, May 15.

"Eleven of our 28 walks are three miles or less, so if you aren't a seasoned walker or you feel gentler terrain suits you best, then it's the perfect occasion to dip a (well-shod) toe in the water.

"Some of the walks, organised by the walking charity, Valeways, are in the Cowbridge, Barry and Llantwit areas and are perfect for seniors – the least junior person joining Valeways' regular strollers is in her 90s!" said Marion.

"At the other end of the spectrum, we have a family trail around Amelia Farm at Walterston, on Saturday, May 19, giving children a chance to revel in the wildlife and farm animals.

"So, all ages, all tastes and more vigorous challenges, like the eight mile, glorious panoramic leg-stretcher over the downs at Ogmore, are on the programme, too".

For full details of all walks see valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk, call 01446 749000 or see them in The GEM.

HW

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What's on in your area

Cowbridge Country Market

COME along to the Lesser Hall on Friday, May 4 for a wonderful selection of home grown plants, all excellent value. There will also be all the usual freshly-made produce ready for the spring bank holiday.

AM's surgery

VALE AM Jane Hutt will be holding a surgery on Saturday, May 5 from 10am-11am at Barry Citizens Advice Bureau, 119 Broad Street; no appointment necessary.

Art exhibition

LLANTWIT MAJOR Art and Craft Group will hold its annual exhibition of paintings and craft work on Saturday, May 5 and Sunday, May 6 between 10am and 4pm at the Llantonian Hall, Llantwit Major.

All welcome; meet the artists and enjoy some light refreshments. Admission free.

For the Gwanwyn Festival, the group have set up an Art Trail around Llantwit Major for the whole of May. Both events are being sponsored by Age UK and Arts Council Wales and further details can be obtained either at the exhibition or at the information centre.

Dementia help

ARE you looking how to support a loved one or relative with dementia? Did you know games can help with memory loss?

A dementia awareness champion will hold a session on Tuesday, May 8 at at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry, from 10am to 12 noon.

Trained volunteer computer support will be also be available. No appointment is needed; just come along. Contact 01446 732385 for further information.

Independent living

ARE you a carer, relative or living on your own and need advice on acquiring aids to make life easier to live independently?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale are holding a informal drop in advice session on Tuesday, May 8 from 10am to 12 noon at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

Get advice on stair lifts, home adaptations, and mobility aids. Snowdrops Independent Living will give advice. For further information, contact 01446 732385 or just come along; no appointment necessary.

Cowbridge U3A

THE next Cowbridge U3A monthly meeting will be a talk entitled 'Brunel in South Wales (Part 1)' by Stephen K Jones, at 2pm on Wednesday, May 9 in Cowbridge Town Hall.

Visitors welcome; there is a small fee, which includes refreshments. See www.u3asites.org.uk/cowbridge.

Cardiomyopathy group meets

THE Cardiomyopathy UK Bridgend Support Group will meet next at The Welfare Hall, Heol Y Groes, Pencoed (CF35 5PE) on Saturday, May 12 from 2pm-4pm.

The speaker will be Moira Ashton, BHF heart failure specialist nurse who will be giving a talk on heart failure and its management.

Art exhibition at Llantonian Hall

LLANTWIT MAJOR Art and Craft Group is holding its annual exhibition at Llantonian Hall on May 5 and May 6 from 10am until 4pm.

A spokesman said: "The exhibition will include a diverse range of art and craft work produced by the members of the group. The group meets at the Llantonian Hall on the first and third Friday of the month, 7.30pm-9pm.

"Meetings include a range of practical workshops or demonstrations and members practical evenings when we develop our own work. We are pleased to welcome new members and visitors to the meetings."

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Celtic Way Community Centre, Rhoose
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Mondays 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Gilgal Church Hall, Woodland Avenue, Porthcawl
Beverley 07912 172674

Tuesdays 9.30am, 11.30am, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Parish of Our Lady & St Illtyd, (Catholic Church), Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Helen 01446 750738/ 07968 355119

Tuesdays 6.30pm
The Old School, South Road, Sully CF64 5TG
Nicola 07951 510871

Wednesday 9.30am
Trinity Church, John Street Porthcawl
Beverley 07912 172674

Wednesdays 4.45pm and 6.45pm
St Francis Millennium Centre, Park Road, Porth-Y-Castell, Barry
Annamarie 07837 497523

Wednesday 5.30pm and 7.30pm
Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry
Martin 07827 445570

Wednesday 3.30pm, 5.30pm, and 7.30pm
Bridgend Deaf Club, Coychurch Road, Bridgend
Helen 07714 170908

Wednesdays 6.00pm
5th Barry Sea Scout Hall, Everard Street, Barry.
Karl 07411 621866

Thursdays 8.00am, 10.00am, 12.00pm, 3.30pm, 5.30pm, 7.30pm
Sarn & Bryncwlis Social Club, Bryncoch Road, Sarn
Scott 07776062802

Thursdays 5.30pm
Highlight Park Community Centre, Barry
Annamarie 07837 497523

Thursdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
The Cabin (Next to Swim Pool), Rear of Hebron Hall, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys
Linda 07809 901008

Thursdays 5.30pm and 7.30pm
The Bayside Room, Hi Tide, Porthcawl, CF36 5BT
Rachel 07779 956233

Thursdays 9.30am, 3.30pm, 5.30pm & 7.30pm
Talbot Community Centre, Kenfig Hill
Millie 07765 040006

Thursdays 9.30am and 11.30am
Memoral Hall, Cenotaph Entrance, Gladstone Road, Barry.
Nicola 07951 510871

Thursdays 5.30pm
St. Davids Church Hall, Wimbourne Road, Pencoed
Donna 07790 797008

Thursdays 9.30am
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Fridays 9.30am and 11.30am
The Cabin (Next to Swim Pool), Rear of Hebron Hall, Cross Common Road, Dinas Powys
Linda 07809 901008

Saturdays 7.30am, 9.30am and 11.30am
Buttrills Community Centre, North Walk, Barry
Martin 07827 445570

Saturday 8.00am & 10.00am
All Saints Church Hall, Victoria Square, Penarth
Linda 07809 901008

Saturdays 9.30am
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Musical evening will be cool for cats

THERE will be an 'Evening with Cats Protection' – with open mic and live 'mewsic' on Saturday, May 12 from 7pm to 12am.

It will be held at Barry Rugby Club, Reservoir Fields, Merthyr Dyfan Road, Barry, CF62 9TH (next to Bryn Hafren School).

Come and join us for an evening of open mic and live music! There will also be an auction and a bar available throughout the evening.

In support of Mental Health Awareness Week, we will also have speakers from various mental health charities present, voicing the importance of volunteering and what it can do for your wellbeing.

Tickets £3 (available in our Cats Protection store on Holton Road, Barry or on the door).

All proceeds raised will go towards Cats Protection.

Please contact us on 01446 739 557 for more details or if you would like a slot booked to perform!

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'Boating and bathing on the Somme' – a Porthcawl man's break from the War

LOOKING BACK 100 YEARS DURING WW1 – MAY 1918

Glam Evans during WW1.

Private Gordon S Perry.

Porthcawl promenade with the Seabank in the background.

CERI JOSEPH of Porthcawl Museum continues her fascinating look at life in Porthcawl 100 years ago during World War One – this month it is May, 1918.

MAY 1: 'Weather nice. Boating and bathing on the Somme' is an entry in the diary of 2nd Lieutenant Arthur David Glanffrwd (Glan) Evans MC, Glamorgan RHA, which he kept from the beginning of the German Offensive – March 21, 1918, to the Armistice November 11, 1918.

That well-earned respite had been hard won fighting near Villers Brettoneux, in the defence of Amiens, one of Germany's objectives outlined in their Georgette Offensive, which, by April 29, had stalled.

Villers Bretonneux itself had been lost on April 24 but was regained during that same night by the Australian Infantry, resulting in "a few hundred Boche prisoners".

From May 16, Glan's unit was stationed at Bonnay, which he describes as a "Very good spot. Hardly any shells about. Lovely country". Glan then went on leave from May 29, during which time his unit moved up to Vaux-sur-Somme, on June 26, where they, "fired in support of a little show by the Aussies. We begin to take the initiative," he writes.

By the time Glan had returned from leave, on July 1, the German threat had all but abated and over 500,000 more Americans had arrived in support of the allies.

In future issues, August-November, the diary will again furnish us with his personal account of the Last Hundred Days.

Glan was promoted to Major at the end of the war, returned home to work, initially at the Briton Ferry Steel Company and later, at the Neath Canal Company, from whence he retired as manager in 1971.

He remained in the Territorials and moved to Porthcawl a few years prior to World War Two, during which conflict, as Major ADG Evans, he commanded the 24th (Glamorgan) Battalion Home Guard.

In 1948 he married Rita Davies and their son, David, was born in 1950; yet in more recent memory, Glan is remembered locally for being the organist at the Grand Pavilion in the 1960s.

Sadly, Glan died after a short illness in June 1974, aged 81 years.

The 400,000 Americans who had arrived in France, by May 1, had depended on the allies for ammunition, equipment and relevant combat training. Britain supplied helmets, ammunition, tanks and rifles, whilst the French supplied field guns, aircraft and machine guns.

Having gained experience, led by Allied Commanders defending relatively quiet sections of the Western Front, on May 28 the 1st Division, American Expeditionary Force, went into action at the Battle of Cantigny.

June would witness America's ever-growing influence on the outcome of the war.

In Porthcawl, the first week of May brought sad news of another Porthcawlian who had died whilst serving his country.

Private Gordon Stanley Perry, 1st Battalion, Welsh Regiment, died in Salonika, April 24, 1918, from Blackwater fever; a complication of malaria.

Stanley, as he was known, had been born in Penarth in 1895 to William and Louisa Perry, the youngest of four boys and three girls. By 1911, the family had moved to New Road, Porthcawl, where the Census Record registers his father, as a 'cab proprietor,' but by 1918, William had become the postmaster at New Road, Post Office (opposite the Brogden Hotel).

On leaving school, Stanley was apprenticed as a building clerk in the town. He was a very good athlete and had 'a splendid gift for singing'.

Following the outbreak of war, Stanley had initially joined the South Wales Borderers, but within a year had been transferred to the Welsh Regiment.

Sadly, a week before his death, his parents had received a telegram informing them that their son, through suffering severe bouts of malaria, had become dangerously ill. The telegram that they must have dreaded, arrived very shortly afterwards.

Private Gordon Stanley Perry is one of 1,180 Commonwealth servicemen buried in the Mikra British Cemetery, Kalamaria. He was 23 years old.

Within Mikra cemetery, which is just outside Salonika (today called Thessaloniki), is the Mikra Memorial.

Almost 500 nurses, officers and men of the Commonwealth forces who died when troop transports and hospital ships were lost in the Mediterranean, and who have no grave but the sea, are commemorated there.

Better news of another Porthcawlian, suffering from malaria, reached the town on May 2. Private Thomas Isaac Russell, 23rd Battalion, Welsh Regiment, referred to in the Porthcawl News as 'Porthcawl's Own,' had been brought home from Salonika and was recuperating in Cardiff.

Tom, the oldest of three brothers and three sisters, was born in Tonyrefail, on April 8, 1895. Their father, Frederick, who was a coal-miner, brought the family to live at 24 George Street, Porthcawl in 1910, whereupon Tom followed him into the mines.

However, in October 1915, Tom, now married, enlisted into the 23rd Battalion at Porthcawl, together with his younger brother George. His brother, Morgan, had previously joined the Royal Welsh Fusiliers in December of 1914, but had been severely wounded earlier in 1918, which had resulted in him being discharged and awarded a Silver Badge later in the year.

Tom, too, survived the war, whereas George, it seems, never quite got involved at all.

At the age of 15 years, George had enlisted into the Glamorgan Yeomanry in Bridgend on April 26, 1915, giving his age as 18 years and six months. By May 28 he had been rumbled and was discharged. He was obviously still determined to enlist as he then attested at Porthcawl with his brother Tom on October 26, 1915.

It is interesting to note that he had had his 16th birthday on October 22 and carried a letter from his mother, Caroline, giving her permission for him to enlist for the duration of the war.

He was accepted because he gave his age as 17 years old, which, with a letter of support from a parent, was a legal outcome.

However, after undergoing training at Newton, Elveden Camp, Thetford, and Pirbright, during which time he had been punished four times for disobeying orders and using bad language, his true age was finally revealed.

He was discharged from Pirbright on July 31, 1916. George did not become a soldier; perhaps it was as a result of his unsuitability or due to him possibly being a slow learner.

Evidence of this can be found in a badly written letter to the authorities later in 1916, asking for his war badge and saying that he had tried to join but they wouldn't have him. Apparently, he was then pensioned off.

George continued to live with his parents and sister Mary, the family moving to Ynys Las, Porthcawl, after World War Two. George remained with Mary, following the deaths of their parents, until he died in December 1972. Mary died in 1997.

Tom, on the other hand, followed his sister Violet to Los Angeles, America, married again in 1938, became a naturalised American Citizen in 1945 and died in March 1967.

Morgan married Beatrice in December 1918 and emigrated to New Zealand, where he died in 1933.

On Saturday, May 4, the Porthcawl Lodge Discharged Sailors and Soldiers Federation organised a charity football match on the College Field (behind today's Seabank Hotel) between The 'Rest' Wounded Heroes XI and A Porthcawl XI. All proceeds were in aid of local prisoners of war, and £100 was raised.

One of those POWs was Private George Walton, 7th Battalion, Border Regiment, whose family lived at 11 Queen's Avenue, Porthcawl. Private Walton, who had enlisted in 1915, fought in many battles, including the Somme, before being wounded in the right thigh and taken prisoner at Arras, in April 1917.

He was taken, firstly, to Douai Hospital and then to Giessen Hospital. After convalescence he was employed as a labourer on a farm but in March 1918, he was sent to Giessen POW Camp where he remained until the Armistice.

On the cessation of hostilities, he was sent by train to Metz and thence through Calais to Dover, arriving home in December 1918. George was the first Porthcawl POW to return home.

Conversely, Judge and Mrs Rowlands, Newton, who had hoped since November 1917, that their son, 2nd Lieutenant Franklyn Theodore Rowland Rowlands was a prisoner of war, received a telegram early May 1918, informing them that he had been killed on November 21, 1917, and had been 'buried by the enemy.' (Porthcawl News May 9. 1918).

Ceri Joseph

New Road with the Post Office on the left.

Queen's Avenue in Porthcawl.

Porthcawl Lions get ready for boot sale

ON Saturday, Porthcawl Lions were in John Street with their book stall from 10am until 4pm – the Lions intend to hold their book sale on the first Saturday of the month throughout the summer.

On Sunday, members of the Porthcawl Lions took part in the Walk for Life, organised by the Porthcawl branch of KRUF and in doing so, raised funds for that worthy organisation.

Even busier days are approaching for the Porthcawl Lions with the start of the car boot season at Porthcawl Rugby ground on Sunday, May 6, starting at 8am and going on until 1pm. A modest charge of £6 per car is the same as last year.

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 7, it is the big May Fayre at All Saints Church, starting at 11am until 4pm with stalls, games, entertainment and the now annual Teddy Bears Picnic.

Dogs are also invited to the dog show in the afternoon, organised by PAWS and there are prizes to be won.

Details of all the activities of the Lions are on their web page porthcawllions.org.

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"The young couple were delighted with the good news," said Mr Harding, a professional jeweller.

He went on to say, "The couple asked me not to reveal the exact amount they received but I can confirm we are talking thousands of pounds."

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Many households have hidden treasure sitting around with the owners not knowing the true value. Well, this week is your chance to visit Penarth and Barry.

Mr Harding added, "With many years of experience in valuing and purchasing watches, jewellery and gems, I could tell you many stories when people have visited a roadshow with items that were seemingly of little value to them." Whilst reading this article, many
readers will be thinking of an old item or a piece of unused jewellery.

VALUATION

Mr Harding added, "The reasons behind choosing Cowbridge is because it's well situated and well known to local people. The roadshow will be the last of its kind to visit the area. Many items are hoped to be found."

Your help is needed to make this unusual event a success with a free valuation service and no obligation to sell, what is there to lose?

Things you should look for and take next week include broken rings, old chains, pocket watches, old silver, diamond and gem set jewellery (even with stones missing), old pictures, objects d'art, coins, medals and virtually anything old or interesting.

Their buyers urgently require stock for collectors and overseas customers, and are offering an instant cash settlement on any items they buy.

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Avengers: Infinity War is '...a truly exceptional triumph of a film'

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

NOT since *The Force Awakens* has there been a film with so much hype and expectation than *Avengers: Infinity War*. Ever since *Iron Man* broke through in 2008, the Marvel Cinematic Universe has been a dominant cinematic force, and, since 2012's *The Avengers*, has been heading for a battle between our heroes and the Mad Titan himself, Thanos.

That time is now at hand in *Avengers: Infinity War*, as Thanos (Josh Brolin) finally makes his move to claim the Infinity Stones which will allow him to control the universe and wipe out half of humanity. But seemingly every Marvel hero we've met so far has designs on stopping him, and the likes of Iron Man (Robert Downey Jr), Captain America (Chris Evans), Thor (Chris Hemsworth) and Black Panther (Chadwick Boseman), amongst others, must unite against the biggest threat the world, and indeed universe, has ever seen...

The undertaking of *Avengers: Infinity War* is an epic one – a film that must thread together an untold number of plot strands, make them a cohesive whole and deliver the thrills and spectacle that we've been accustomed to ever since Robert Downey blasted out of that cave 10 years ago.

If directors the Russo brothers proved with *Captain America: The Winter Soldier* and sequel *Civil War* that they're a pretty good fit at melding all these elements together, then *Infinity War* is possibly their biggest accomplishment yet – to deliver such an engaging, exciting, emotional blockbuster that doesn't leave you feeling shortchanged in any way is a rare feat indeed.

Suffice to say, *Infinity War* feels like a film a decade in the making; this is the beginning of the end of the first huge chapter of the MCU, and as such the stakes have never been higher.

One of the criticisms levelled at the films has been the indestructible nature of the heroes and the blandness of the villains. We would be venturing into spoiler territory to talk about the former, but the villain subject isn't one that needs to be skirted over – for all the talk and hype about Thanos being the ultimate 'big bad', the villain to end all villains, he more than lives up to the part.

Essayed (flawlessly) through motion capture by Josh Brolin, he is a substantial villain, intent on causing death and destruction but with the reasoning to back it up. Marvel have upped their villain game in their last few films and Thanos is without doubt the most dastardly and ruthless one yet.

Of course, every villain needs a hero and there's plenty to choose from here, with nearly every single hero from the Marvel roster thus far ready to tangle with Thanos and his horde. It says much for the Russos, and scriptwriters Christopher Markus and Stephen McFeely, that each character has a purpose and has something to get their teeth stuck into. Of course, some are more prominent than others but none feel superfluous and shoehorned in.

It's the bigger names that get the biggest weight to pull – Robert Downey Jr's journey from cocksure hero to man on the brink has been played out superbly well and Tony Stark is a vital as ever, while Chris Hemsworth's Thor renaissance continues in what may very well be his best outing as the Norse god yet.

But there is also light relief from *Guardians of the Galaxy*, with Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana and Karen Gillan all superb, while Tom Holland's Spider-Man continues to go from strength to strength and Benedict Cumberbatch's Doctor Strange looks like he's always been there.

There's nary a bone to pick in terms of the performances with some really emotional moments for the characters to deliver, and proof that playing the long game gives the greatest rewards. We feel the peril and troubles of these characters far more deeply as they've been around for so long and we, as an audience, are so invested in them.

In terms of direction, the Russos have done a marvellous job. At 150 minutes, the film zips by, lean and mean with no fat on its bones, and it even manages to avoid that most common of pitfalls, the second act sag. Visually there is no scrimping on scale and the action beats have a fizz and dynamism that is enthralling.

The fact that we have another *Avengers* film coming next year means that film may feel a little open-ended for some, but even then it feels self-contained, delivers everything you would want and, incredibly, throws some curveballs that will leave you stunned.

It's a sublime film, a piece of work that delivers in all areas. *Avengers: Infinity War* is a roller-coaster that leaves you exhausted come the end credits (or just past the end credits, if you catch my drift) – a truly exceptional triumph of a film.

VERDICT: Marvel at its biggest, its boldest and (quite possibly) its best, *Avengers: Infinity War* is a sweeping, dramatic, action-packed spectacle of a film, capable of delivering gag after gut punch after high-octane action sequence. The Russo brothers excel themselves with a thoroughly engaging and thrilling piece of work that begins to reshape the fabric of the MCU. *Essential viewing*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Avengers* (2012), *Captain America: Civil War* (2016).

VALEWAYS WALKS

ON Wednesday, May 9 at 10.30am, the Cosmeston Coffee Shop Strollers meet outside the information office at Cosmeston Country Park.

Also on May 9 at 2.30pm, the Llantwit Major Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Town Hall car park, Llantwit Major.

On Monday, May 14 at 11am 'Spring lambs and coastal views' starting at Dinas Powys Common, opposite Twyncyn CF64 4DT.

On Wednesday, May 16 at 10.30am, the Barry Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Bridge Cafe car park, Cold Knap.

Also on May 16 at 2.30pm, the Cowbridge Coffee Shop Strollers meet at the Physic Garden fountain.

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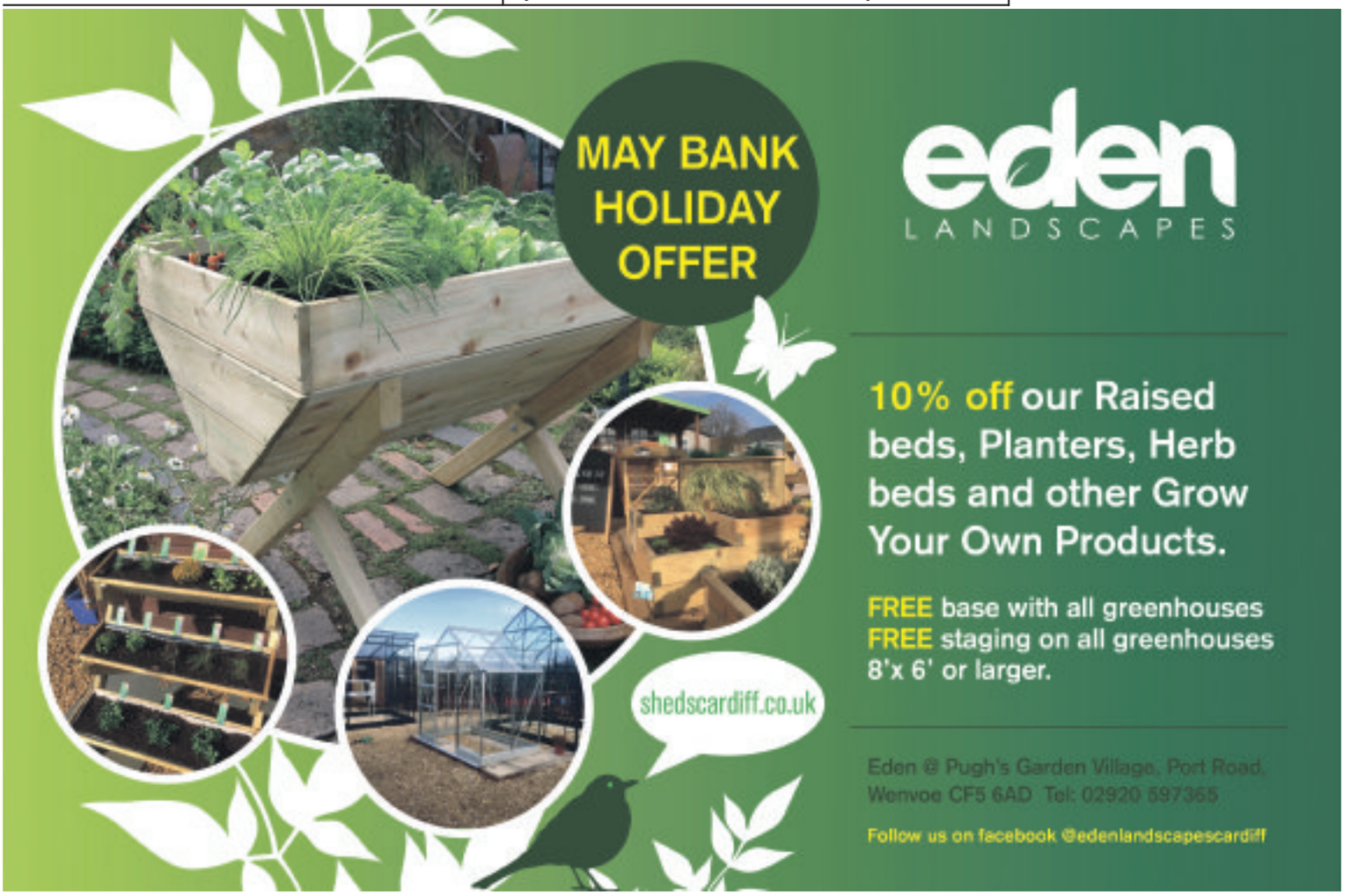

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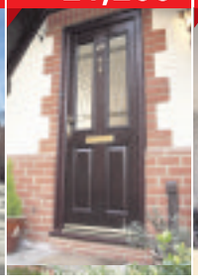

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Local solicitors in final of UK business awards

NEWBOLD SOLICITORS will be attending the UK finals of the Small Businesses Awards in London this week, representing Wales in the national finals.

Having won the Welsh heat, they are proud to be representing Wales against the area finalists for the UK.The awards will be held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Westminster.

Catherine Hartland said: "I am really pleased for all the staff here at Newbold Solicitors, everyone has worked so hard to make the firm what it is today in very challenging times. I am also very pleased that a business in the Vale has been put on a national platform.

"There are over 160,000 members of the Federation, so to be the Welsh winners is a massive achievement for us. We would love to win the national final, but there are so many other deserving businesses who have achieved incredible success, that we will not be too disappointed if we are not the national winners."

Newbold Solicitors employ almost 70 staff in their four offices. They have been nominated for 12 national awards in their seven years of trading.

It has also recently been announced that they have been shortlisted again for 'Property Law Firm of the Year' this year – exciting times for Newbold Solicitors and for local businesses.

Visit the new website and follow the firm on social media, www.newboldsolicitors.com or call 01446 700693.

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Catherine Hartland Watkins, Partner

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To book treatments, contact Beauty Retreat via social media – search Beauty Retreat Barry. Alternatively, contact on 07955452751 or email hello@beautyretreatbarry.co.uk

National property sales fall-through rate reaches record high

THE latest data and analysis from independent home buyer, Quick Move Now, has revealed that the number of house sales falling through before completion is on the rise, with 38.8 per cent of sales falling through in the first quarter of 2018.

Local property specialist Mark Jennings said: "In reality, it is not difficult to see why so many sales fall through, with the main reasons cited being buyers not able to arrange finance, buyers and sellers re-negotiating the price prior to exchange of contracts, surveys revealing structural defects with the property and the slow process from offer to completion."

How do you avoid your purchase or sale falling through? The key is ensuring both buyers and sellers receive great service, prior to an offer being accepted and after.

The sad fact is that, once the offer is accepted, too many buyers and sellers are left to do the hard work themselves, chasing agents, mortgage brokers and conveyancers to keep the process moving.

With the above in mind, sellers should be sure to pick an agent who will not over promise and under deliver. For buyers, great service from a mortgage broker, conveyancer and surveyor is a key part of the process.

Buying or selling property really shouldn't be as difficult and stressful as it often is and if you have the right people acting for you, it won't be.

If you are looking at buying or selling a property in the near future and would benefit from some independent advice, feel free to call Mark Jennings Property Consultants on 01446 311845.

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VALE RESTAURANTS PICK UP TOP AWARDS

RIGHT: South Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies meets Chloe Francis of Cobbles Kitchen & Deli which has have recently been awarded the title of Welsh Restaurant of the Year.

SOUTH Wales Central AM Andrew RT Davies has congratulated the Vale of Glamorgan restaurants recognised at the Food Awards Wales 2018.

The awards, held on April 23 at the Exchange Hotel, Cardiff, are given to restaurants and cafes chosen by the public as the best in their field.

Cobbles Kitchen & Deli based in Ogmore-by-Sea picked up the gong for Welsh restaurant of the year.

Mr Davies recently visited Cobbles to meet owner Chloe Francis and to see her exciting plans to expand the business.

Penarth-based Michelin-starred James Sommerin was recognised twice as both Chef of the Year and Fine Dining Restaurant of the Year.

Another Penarth business, The Crepe Escape, picked up the award for Dessert Outlet of the Year.

Mr Davies praised all three for their work putting the Vale on the map and said they were "huge assets to the area".

Mr Davies said: "The food industry is key to the economy in the Vale and it brings a huge boost when local businesses do well.

"I recently visited Cobbles and they are going from strength to strength; Chloe's enthusiasm and ambition to improve is admirable. She fully deserves the accolade of restaurant of the year.

"James's record and CV speaks for itself and he has done a huge amount for Penarth. It's frankly no surprise to see him pick up Chef of the Year and Fine Dining Restaurant of the Year and I'm delighted for him.

"The Crepe Escape offers something different – and shows we do puddings as well as mains! All three courses are definitely on offer in the Vale.

"Cobbles, Restaurant James Sommerin and The Crepe Escape put the Vale on the map and we're very lucky to have them."

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The end of the 'coastal line' – 50 years ago

AT 11.44pm on May 4, 1968, a small group of railway enthusiasts gathered at Penarth railway station to bid farewell to the last train to depart for Barry via the 'coastal route,' this time only calling at Sully by request.

Earlier in the day the single car 'bubble' unit made regular calls to the other stations on the line; Alberta Place Halt, passing the long closed Lower Penarth station/halt before arriving at Lavernock.

It travelled onwards through the large cutting to Swanbridge and Sully and then to Cadoxton, where the service ended – too late for the connection on to Barry (which might explain how scarce a commodity passengers were on this stretch of line).

The line was opened in stages from 1887 to 1888 terminating at a remote 'station' at Biglis which was located near some fields until the following year, when agreement was reached with the fierce rival railway company, the Barry Railway, to allow trains to enter Cadoxton railway station – but no further. So the line became known as the 'Cadoxton branch' of the Taff Vale Railway.

So why was the line built at all?

Under the title of the Cardiff, Penarth and Barry Junction Railway, it was intended to halt the expansion of Barry Dock from one large dock to a further number two dock. The plans originally were for the new line to cross the site of the second dock, so preventing it from being built.

For the CPBR, read the Taff Vale Railway, which was still reeling from the opening of Barry No 1 dock, sucking millions of tons of coal traffic down the Barry line.

It was funded by coal owners and the like spearheaded by David Davies of Llandinam, to the detriment of the TVR's dock at Penarth.

Needless to say, the plan was thrown out by Parliament and the TVR ended up with a piece of useless railway on their hands. If that was not bad enough, by getting access to Cadoxton, the Barry Railway in turn had the right to join the Taff line at Cogan Junction, having direct access to Cardiff.

The Cadoxton branch settled down to a life of rural bliss. Lavernock station catered for a local population of less than 60 and Sully had less than 300 residents. Lower Penarth station served the Glamorganshire Golf Club. Both Sully and Lavernock had the luxury of a signal box and a petit goods yard for agricultural needs and a wagon of coal now and then.

At Biglis, the TVR constructed a small goods depot – there were two brickworks nearby. In an effort to increase passenger traffic, two motor platforms were added.

A 'motor car' in railway terms was a tiny steam locomotive bolted to a passenger carriage – the forerunner of today's diesel multiple unit – one between Lower Penarth and Penarth town station at Alberta Place to serve the cliff walk and local well-to-do residents and between Lavernock and Sully, a halt at Swanbridge.

The height of the line's success was in the early 1920s when the 'Ports to Ports' express from Newcastle to Barry, and later Swansea (for seafarers to change ports for new employment), was for some reason diverted via Penarth, despite stiff gradients of 1 in 40 to Penarth Town and 1 in 45 to Lower Penarth.

Possibly the very tight curve at Cogan may have been a consideration – or maybe Penarth Docks itself.

In later years, both Sully and Lavernock were provided with camping coaches, but the bread and butter, passenger-wise, was the summer season, when thousands flocked via the train to the sedate coastal beaches of Lavernock, Sully and Swanbridge.

Excursion trains came from all over the valleys, sometimes with as many as a dozen coaches. The regular service was remarkable too, with up to 20 trains per day.

A further boost to the railway was the opening of the Penarth Cement Works and its next-door neighbour, the Penarth Concrete Works.

The goods yard at Biglis faded away, but after 'grouping', when the Taff Vale and Barry Railways became part of the Great Western Railway, at last the Cadoxton trains could now proceed to Barry and beyond.

Rationalisation began with the closure of Lower Penarth station in 1954 after already being reduced to the status of a halt in the 1930s.

The arrival of diesel multiple units in 1958 was a bonus and the special reduced day tickets to the line from all over south Wales continued to be promoted.

The Penarth–Cadoxton branch had even been overlooked in the 'Reshaping of British Railways' programme (better known as the Beeching Report), but the writing was on the wall.

As a part of the rationalisation of track layout between Cardiff and Penarth (the Penarth Town line was singled) while the line to Sully remained double track, also the line was split at Penarth Town so isolating the Cadoxton line – no trains could now go via Penarth to Barry.

A single-coach bubble car replaced the three to six DMUs, and bus companies had a bus stop next to every station on the line. The inevitable 'Notice of Withdrawal of Railway Passenger Services' poster was duly posted in 1967. Objections ensued and the line remained open for a further 12 months, but after public enquiry, the closure plans were upheld on the grounds that there were more than adequate bus replacement services.

On May 4, 1968, the last train with 17 passengers on board left that night for the last time, the red rear light disappearing into the darkness, ironically at the beginning of the summer timetable – the time of year the railway may have paid its way.

Attempts to restore the railway to Lower Penarth many years later were thwarted by local objections. One wonders whether in the light of the proposed major housing developments, that this curious railway might today have been a godsend to the residents of Sully around the coast to Penarth as a fast transit service to Cardiff. I would welcome comments on this.

Brian Keitch

WHAT'S ON, AND WHERE

Neil Diamond tribute evening

A CHARITY fundraising Neil Diamond tribute event on behalf of the Marie Curie charity takes place on Friday, May 11 at Tondu Railway club; doors open 7.30pm. Tickets (£10) from Tondu Railway club on 01656 720005; Maureen on 01656 723512 or Helen on 01656 660391. Funds raised will go towards helping all patients in Bridgend county.

Outdoor church service

THE United Christian Churches Pencoed are holding their annual outdoor Pentecostal Service on the green opposite Pencoed monument (CF35 5PE) on Sunday, May 20 at 2.30pm, weather permitting.

If the weather is unsuitable, the service will be in Pencoed Miners Welfare Hall, Heol-Y-Groes, Pencoed. Refreshments will be served following the service; everyone welcome.

South Wales Classic Car Club to mark their 35th anniversary

IN 1983, a small group of about a dozen classic car enthusiasts got together to form what is now the South Wales Classic Car Club, and is this year marking its 35th anniversary.

The first annual show was held in 1986 at the Dow Corning Social Club in Barry, and later moved to the South Wales Constabulary Social Club in Waterton, Bridgend, where it remained until the closure of that facility some years later.

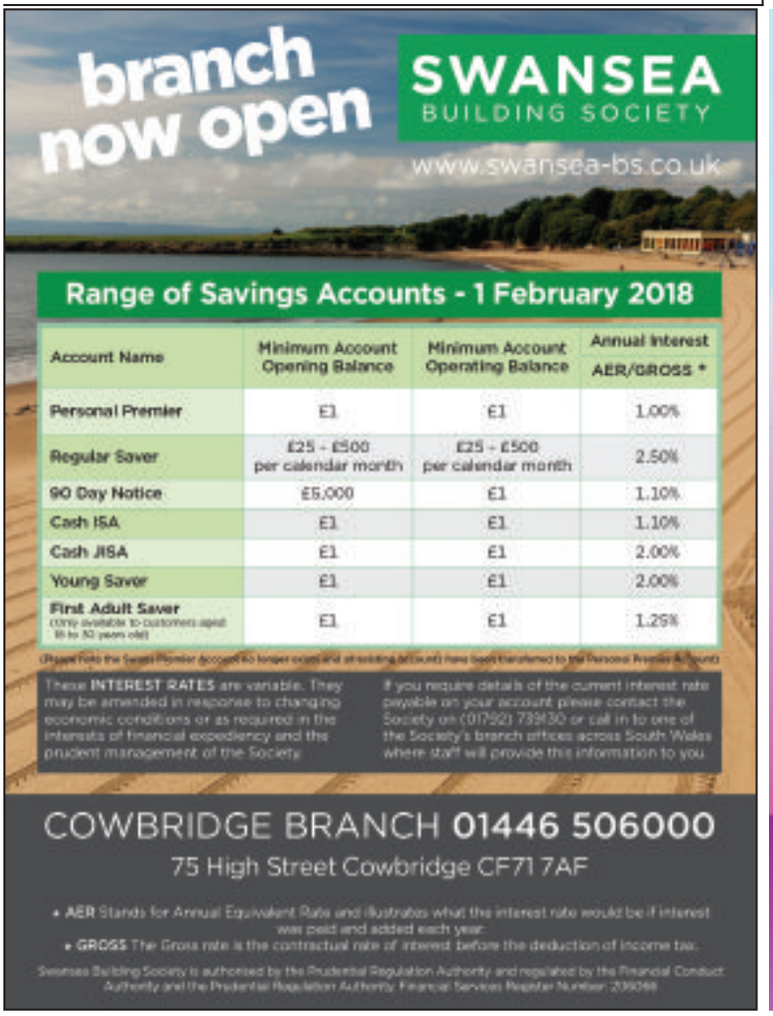
A subsequent move to the former agricultural college in Pencoed allowed the show to continue to flourish on an annual basis until the weather intervened in 2014. It resulted in a further move from 2015 onwards to the car park of Cardiff City Stadium in Leckwith Road, Cardiff.The show is now in its fourth year at this venue and will hopefully continue to improve with age.

It is staged by members of the club, now numbering some 100 or so active members (although many have come and gone over the years) on an entirely voluntary basis.

Any profits from the show are distributed amongst various local charities, to which the club is pleased to have donated many thousands of pounds over the years.

The club is always open to new members and further information regarding new membership, exhibiting at the show, or charitable donations, can be found on the website at swccc.net.

Alternatively, we meet at Pontyclun Athletic Club, Castan Road, Pontyclun, on the first Thursday of every month, at which we will be pleased to welcome potential new members and visitors alike.



Ducks on the move to raise cash for church

MEMBERS of Barry Uniting Church, based at the 'portacabin' between the Waterfront Medical Centre and Poundstretcher Extra, have launched an exciting fundraising campaign to boost funds for the development of their new permanent community centre and church building.

Members of Barry Uniting Church with their ducks

The 'Bridge Between' will be located alongside the footpath linking the retail park to Heol y Llongau on Barry Waterfront. Building is anticipated to start in spring 2019.

The 'Great International Barry Duck Race' is a sponsored event that will run over the summer and 300 plastic ducks have been donated to the campaign.

The ducks are available for a suggested donation of £5 from the centre. Entrants are invited to take photographs of their ducks in places far and wide, beginning with the 26 letters of the alphabet and should obtain at least four sponsors to support their efforts. Prizes will be awarded for the greatest distances travelled from the centre.

Details of the competition are provided on the church's Facebook page 'Barry Waterfront Centre'. The Community Garden at the centre will be open on Saturday, May 5 from 10am until 1pm when ducks will be available for collection and plans of the new centre are on display.

Refreshments will be served during the morning and the building is also open for teas and coffees every Thursday morning from 10am until 12 noon.

AS

GVS offers its support

GLAMORGAN Voluntary Services (GVS) provides a wealth of support to community groups and people who would like to volunteer.

GVS supports community groups through: Low cost high quality printing and design; assisting with the recruitment of volunteers; free advice and guidance to help identify and bid for grants.

They also assist trustees to run groups efficiently and legally; help set up new groups, develop governing documents, provide support with registering as a charity and develop policies and procedures.

Free and low cost training, networks and events and free equipment loan and promotion.

GVS can also support individuals by finding the right volunteering position for them from the 500 opportunities on offer.

If you would like to benefit from our help, contact Glamorgan Voluntary Services (GVS) on 01446 741706, e-mail: enquiries@gvs.wales, or see www.gvs.wales.

BM

Busy times for Highlight Park WI

HIGHLIGHT Park WI gathered on the first Tuesday of the month for a fun meeting with a quiz.

The AGM was held on April 18 with a good attendance. Carol Atkinson was introduced as the federation advisor who had come to oversee the proceedings. She emphasised how important it is to discuss problems before they get too complicated.

A letter of thanks had been received from Jane Dixon, head of the Denman Appeal. This was for Highlight WI's contribution to improvements needed to keep the Denman buildings up to scratch and provide good accommodation for its many visitors who enjoy time away.

A grand total of £712 was raised by holding a combined tea party at Highlight Park, hosted by local WIs in the area.

June Davies read out the minutes of the previous meeting which were accepted. Resolutions were discussed and one item was overwhelmingly popular, with the highest results going to mental health.

Pam Aldridge read the financial statement for 2017 and Pam Ralphs then itemised all the events, fundraisers, days out, meals out and evenings in with varied speakers – a full year! Besides the monthly meetings, a theatre group and lunch dates were added to regular activities.

Barbara Bowring's report promised support for the three local charities that will benefit. She had great hopes for the coming year and thanked all the members for their hard work.

A visit to the Memo was arranged by Sue Wade to *Beyond the Barricade*, a tribute to the top shows of London theatre.

A bus load of eager ladies gathered on April 27 for an awayday to Tredegar Park and Garden Centre and had a very enjoyable visit.

DB

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Waste Less and Recycle more!

Please note the changes to your waste and recycling collection days this May Bank Holiday.

Normal Collection Day:	Will Now Be:
Monday 7th May	**Tuesday 8th May**
Tuesday 8th May	**Wednesday 9th May**
Wednesday 9th May	**Thursday 10th May**
Thursday 10th May	**Friday 11th May**
Friday 11th May	**Saturday 12th May**

The Waste and Recycling online calendars on the Council website have been amended to reflect these new collection dates.
www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/recycle

CHANGES TO RECYCLING AND WASTE COLLECTIONS

The Council would like to hear your views on proposed changes to recycling and waste collections, the current waste and recycling model operated by the Council is not sustainable long-term.

Visit our website www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk or visit us at one of our roadshows below to take the survey so we can hear your views.

Date	Time	Location
Friday 4th May	10:00am – 2:00pm	Penarth Pier
Tuesday 8th May	10:00am – 2:00pm	Barry Island
Friday 11th May	8:00am – 12:00pm	St Athan Village Community Centre
Saturday 12th May	9:00am – 12:00pm	Morrisons Car Park, Barry
Tuesday 15th May	4:30pm – 7:30pm	St Brides Major Primary School
Wednesday 16th May	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Ham Lane East, Llantwit Major
Thursday 17th May	5:00pm – 8:00pm	Murch Community Centre, Dinas Powys
Saturday 19th May	9:00am – 12:00pm	Room 1, Kymin, Penarth
Sunday 20th May	6:30am – 2:00pm	Sully Car Boot Sale
Thursday 24th May	10:00am – 2:00pm	Penarth Town Centre
Tuesday 29th May	9:00am – 2:00pm	Barry King Square Flying Start Fun Day

Beth sydd yn eich bin?

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Normal Collection Day:	Will Now Be:
Dydd Llun 7 Mai	**Dydd Mawrth 8 Mai**
Dydd Mawrth 8 Mai	**Dydd Mercher 9 Mai**
Dydd Mercher 9 Mai	**Dydd Iau 10 Mai**
Dydd Iau 10 Mai	**Dydd Gwener 11 Mai**
Dydd Gwener 11 Mai	**Dydd Sadwrn 12 Mai**

Mae'r calendrau Gwastraff ac Ailgylchu ar-lein ar wefan y Cyngor wedi'u diwygio i adlewyrchu'r dyddiadau casglu newydd hyn.
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Dyddiad	Amser	Lleoliad
Dydd Gwener 4 Mai	10:00am – 2:00pm	Pier Penarth
Dydd Mawrth 8 Mai	10:00am – 2:00pm	Ynys y Barri
Dydd Gwener 11 Mai	8:00am – 12:00pm	Canolfan Cymunedol Pentref Sain Tathan
Dydd Sadwrn 12 Mai	9:00am – 12:00pm	Maes Parcio Morrissons, y Barri
Dydd Mawrth 15 Mai	4:30pm – 7:30pm	Ysgol Gynradd Saint-y-Brid
Dydd Mercher 16 Mai	2:00pm – 4:00pm	Ham Lane East, Llanilltud Fawr
Dydd Iau 17 Mai	5:00pm – 8:00pm	Canolfan Cymunedol Murch, Dinas Powys
Dydd Sadwrn 19 Mai	9:00am – 12:00pm	Ystafell 1, Y Cymin, Penarth
Dydd Sul 20 Mai	6:30am – 2:00pm	Sêl Cist Car, Sili
Dydd Iau 24 Mai	10:00am – 2:00pm	Canol Tref Penarth
Dydd Mawrth 29 Mai	9:00am – 2:00pm	Sgwâr y Brenin, y Barri – Diwrnod Hwyl Dechrau'n Deg

CAUTION ADVISED BY ABLEWORLD

WE have recently received reports of people posing as staff from Ableworld and cold calling customers to arrange home visits.

Ableworld would like to reassure you that we DO NOT cold call our customers.

If you arrange for Ableworld to visit you within the home for a demonstration or delivery of an item, please ensure you always ask for identification. We don't mind, as we would prefer you are safe and happy in your own home.

For any person who calls you or you invite to your home – always follow these simple steps:

• Don't ever accept anyone into your home if you have not invited them;

• Arrange for a friend or relative to be with you for your pre-arranged home visit for your peace of mind;

• If you are unsure if the visitor is genuine, ask them to wait while you call the company to double check;

• Ask the cold caller for their telephone number so if you do have reason to doubt them, you have a number to give to the police.

Should you be concerned, please call your local Ableworld store at Bridgend Shopping Centre, Brackla Street, Bridgend, CF31 1DD on 01656 856696 or 4 Penarth Retail Park, Penarth Road, Cardiff, CF11 8EF. Tel: 02921 321072 or see www.ableworld.co.uk for more details.

Cowbridge Art Society

ON Thursday, May 3, there will be a charcoal demonstration by Cheltenham artist Sheila Bryant one of the best demonstrators of this medium who has visited the society in recent years.

On Thursday, May 10,the annual calendar completion takes place when pictures for inclusion in the 2019 CAS calendar will be selected.

The society welcomes artists of any level, and also non artists who would like to see demonstrations of various art techniques or attend illustrated lectures on art topics. The group meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge (7pm-9pm) and occasional visitors and new members are most welcome.

For details of the society's programme and activities, collect a programme from the Old Hall, or see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com and www.facebook.com/cowbridgeart.cas

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BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND DEALS

Cadbury Dairy Milk

Now £1 per 110g bar

was £1.59 per 110g bar

Carlsberg 18x440ml

Now £12.99 per 18pk!

was £17.99 per 18pk

Bedding Plants £2.99 (9 plug)

Potting & Hanging Basket Plants £1.99 or 3 for £5

Grow Bags & Compost

Multi-Purpose Compost 50L £3.99 or 3 for £10

Grow Bags 10L £1.89 or 2 for £3

Coke Zero 15pk x 330ml

Diet Coke 15pk x 330ml

Coca-Cola 12pk x 330ml

Now £4.99 per 15pk!

was £6.15 per 12/15pk

Andrex Skin Kind 12 Roll Pack

Now £4.99 per 12 roll pack

was £5.99 per 12 roll pack

Taibach - Llantwit Major - Cowbridge - Caerau - North Cornelly - Sarn - Talbot Green - Bryntirion - Maesteg

The cheque will go towards the Recliner Chairs Fund at Llandough Hospital.

Vale People First group raises funds in memory of former member

DANIELLE BRIDGES and Kelly Anne Rideout from Vale People First Active Communities Real Lives Group recently presented a £100 cheque they raised to launch 'The Recliner Chairs Fund' in support of the Haematology and Chemotherapy Unit at Llandough Hospital.

The fund was set up in memory of Jill Mallett, a much-loved member of Salem Baptist Church, Barry, who was a great supporter of the Vale People First Real Lives Group.

On Easter day, the Real Lives Group Choir sang during the morning service, and presented the funds raised to Salem Church treasurer, Gwyneth Cox.

Samaritans welcomes plans to improve the mental health of young people

A NEW report released by an Assembly committee on support for children and young people's mental health has been welcomed by Samaritans Cymru.

The inquiry was launched by the Children, Young People and Education Committee.

Samaritans Cymru provided the committee with evidence during the inquiry, on their ongoing calls for compulsory emotional health lessons in schools and the wider benefits of improving resilience in young people.

Within their evidence, Samaritans also highlighted that young people are a high-risk group for mental illness and suicide, and in Wales, there has been a significant rise in factors such as self harm and admissions to A&E which can contribute to suicidal ideas or intent in adolescents.

Samaritans have developed a free teaching resource called DEAL (Developing Emotional Awareness and Listening) which aims to help develop resilience in young people.

In 2016/17, Samaritans in Wales worked with five pilot schools in Cardiff to implement the resource into their curriculum for one academic year.

Following the DEAL pilot, in which Cardiff schools delivered Samaritans lesson plans for one academic year, teacher Laura-Cerys Williams, of Fitzalan High School, said: "Pupils enjoyed the sessions due to their interactivity and staff found the sessions very easy to deliver.

"Following the pilot, the students have a better awareness of mental health. We are planning on continuing to use some of the resources in our year 7, 8 and 9 lessons."

Among the recommendations of the report, the Committee recommended that Welsh Government undertake a review of the various emotional and mental health programmes in schools, in order to put forward a national approach for schools to adopt.

While undertaking this review, the committee has recommended that Welsh Government work with Samaritans to develop its DEAL programme for wider use in schools in Wales.

Sarah Stone, executive director for Samaritans in Wales said: "We are pleased to welcome the recommendations of this report and are encouraged to see the call for a review of current emotional health provision to recommend a national approach for all schools.

"Emotional health programmes in schools should be viewed as a form of prevention and early intervention which could reduce pressure on CAMHS and reduce specific mental health problems."

Significantly, the committee has also recommended that Welsh Government issue guidance to schools on talking about suicide and self-harm, to dispel the myth that talking about it may increase the risk.

They've also called on Welsh Government to ensure that basic mental health training, including how to talk about suicide, becomes part of initial teacher training and continuous professional development, so that all teachers are more confident to talk about it.

Sarah Stone said: "The call for basic mental health training in Initial Teaching Training is of crucial importance; we must continue to highlight that talking about self harm and suicide does not increase the risk – it reduces it.

"Talking about mental health and reducing stigma is one of the most significant barriers we must overcome in order to improve emotional health in young people."

Boötes is one for the skywatchers

URSA Major is still overhead. If we look at the end star in its 'handle' and draw an imaginary curved line in the direction of the south eastern horizon, we will locate the constellation of Boötes.

Its brightest star is called Arcturus, which is one of the brightest stars in the sky. It will look orange in colour and binoculars will enhance the hue. It lies about 40 light years away and is over 100 times as luminous as our Sun.

To the left of Boötes is the small constellation of *Corona Borealis*, the Northern Crown. It is fair to say most of the constellations look nothing like their names, but Corona really does look like a crown, with the six brightest stars arranged in a semi-circle. Under dark skies it is worth counting with the naked eye how many stars can be seen within the bowl shape.

Now use a pair of binoculars and count again. It contains two very interesting stars, one within the semi-circle is called *R Corona Borealis*.

A very old carbon star, it is sometimes visible with the naked eye or binoculars, but other times it requires a telescope to see. The reason for the changes is due to at irregular intervals, it blows off its surface a dense shell of carbon particles and this tends to dim the starlight. After a period of several weeks, or sometimes years, the cloud of material thins out and we see the star once more.

Another strange star lies to one side of the crown and requires a large telescope to see. Known as *T Corona Borealis*, it remains vary faint. However, on two occasions in 1866 and again in 1946, it became visible to the naked eye, hence, its nickname, the 'Blaze Star'. It is always worth keeping an eye on this one, because we don't know when, or if, it will repeat the outburst.

Carry on the imaginary curved line from the end star in the handle of Ursa Major, through Arcturus, towards the southern horizon, this will bring you to the constellation of Virgo, marked by the star Spica. If you thought Arcturus was powerful, just remember Spica is about 2,000 times as luminous as our Sun and lies around 200 light years from us.

Its colour is also much different to Arcturus, Spica and looks blue-white. Virgo is famous because it has many faint galaxies in this area of sky, but a large telescope is required to see them.

Watch out for mighty Jupiter. It lies towards the southern horizon below and to the left of Spica. Wait until around midnight for the best views. The Moon lies close to it on May 27. Even in binoculars, Jupiter will show itself as non-stellar and also reveal the four bright moons, Callisto, Ganymede, Io, and Europa. The Moon acts as a guide to Spica, because it lies above it on 25th.

Do keep an eye on the Barry Astronomical Society website www.barryastronomical.wordpress.com for dates when the group will meet at Porthkerry Park (weather permitting) to observe the night sky.

DAVE POWELL

Prince's Countryside Fund grants available

THE Prince's Countryside Fund grants are now available to support community led groups and projects in rural areas around the UK.

Applications opened on April 30 for community groups and charities to apply for grant funding of up to £50,000 from The Prince's Countryside Fund.

The closing date for applications is June 14.

Claire Saunders, Director of the Fund said: "This is a critical time for people and businesses in our rural areas, and we are seeking applicants for our grant programme who can help to ensure that their rural communities can thrive now and in the future.

"We want to hear from innovative and creative community led projects that are responding to local needs and would urge people to consider applying. Whether this is bringing new life to your village shop and pub, increasing access to rural employment and training, or bringing together farming communities, we would love to hear from you."

Funding is also available for projects that will improve the prospects of viability for family farm businesses, for example by providing training or education schemes.

The Fund's grant giving helps to support a diverse range of projects, often delivered locally by grassroots organisations and community groups, and since the Fund was set up by HRH The Prince of Wales in 2010 it has distributed more than £9 million to communities across the UK.

Find out more and read the full eligibility and guidance document at www.princescountrysidefund.org.uk/grants, or contact Helen Aldis on 0207 5666659, or Helen.Aldis@bitc.org.uk.

FG

Do you have a story? Then get in touch with us.
editorial@glamorgan-gem.co.uk
01446 774484

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL
CYNGOR BRO MORGANNWG

Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act, 1990
Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (Wales) Order 2012

Development that may affect a Conservation Area/ Datblygu a allai effeithio ar Ardal Gadwraeth

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00402/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed conversion and loft conversion to existing property to form 2 self contained dwellings
Location:/Lleoliad:	33, Station Road, Penarth
Conservation Area:/ Ardal Gadwraeth	Affecting the Penarth Conservation Area

Listed Building Consent/ Caniatâd Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00463/LBC
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Re-thatch main roof which has reached its end of life
Location:/Lleoliad:	Three Tuns, Cowbridge Road, St. Nicholas
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Grade II

Affecting setting of a Listed Building/ Cais (au) sy'n effeithio ar leoliad Adeilad Rhestredig

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00244/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Double storey and single storey extension
Location:/Lleoliad:	Mill Cottage, Church Farm, Clemenstone
Listed Building:/ Adeilad Rhestredig	Affecting the Mill, Threshing Barn, Cart Shed and 4 no. outbuildings at Church Farm, Picket, all Grade II Listed Buildings

Application(s) of General Interest/ Ceisiadau o Ddiddordeb Cyffredinol

Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00398/RG3
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Proposed residential development comprising 28 dwellings along with associated parking, highway and ancillary works
Location:/Lleoliad:	Brecon Court, Barry
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00458/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Full planning application for the erection of 24 no. homes with associated access, landscaping and engineering works
Location:/Lleoliad:	Land north of B4265 (Phase II), Boverton, Llantwit Major

May affect a Public Right of Way/ Gall effeithio ar Hawl Tramwy Cyhoeddus

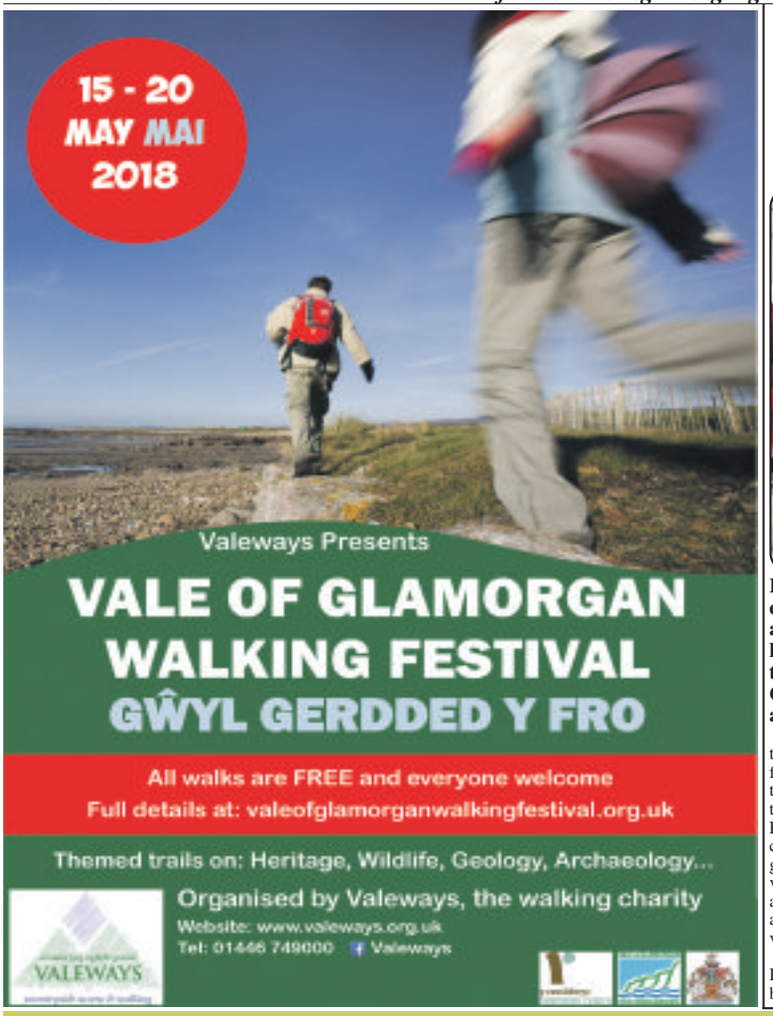
Application No:/ Rhif y cais:	2018/00273/FUL
Proposal:/Cynnig:	Installation of electric barrier approx. 1.2 metres high and 4 metres wide, approx. 40 metres from the farm entrance
Location:/Lleoliad:	Amelia Trust Farm, Five Mile Lane, Walterston, Barry

Details may be inspected for 21 days at the address given below, or via **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Gall manylion eu harchwilio am 21 diwrnod yn y cyfeiriad a roddir isod, neu drwy **http://vogonline.planning-register.co.uk/**

Dated / Dyddiedig: 3 May, 2018

V. L. Robinson
Operational Manager,
Regeneration and Planning,
Vale of Glamorgan Council,
Dock Office, Barry. CF63 4RT



Aircraft engineers of the future take flight on Aero Challenge

The team from Bryn Hafren with their winners' certificates.

BUDDING aircraft engineers from schools across Cardiff and the Vale have been put through their paces at a special Aero Challenge held by Cardiff and Vale College.

The year-10 pupils travelled to the college's International Centre for Aerospace Training (ICAT) for the annual Aero Challenge. Held to mark National Science and Engineering Week, the competition has been designed to give school pupils a taste of the various tasks involved in the aerospace engineering industry and to show the value of vocational education.

An all-girl team from Bryn Hafren Comprehensive School beat competition from 10 other schools to win the challenge. The competition involved tests of hand and eye skills and project management. The pupils also tested their skills at the college's flight simulator.

Bryn Hafren pupil Bethan Klee said: "I really enjoyed the day as the challenges we completed were fun and the skills we used were useful for any job. The tasks were aimed at a variety of skills and all encouraged teamwork and communicaton."

Her team mate, Katie Pascoe, added: "In my opinion, the Aero Challenge was a great experience and something I will never forget. I was able to show individual and team skills – ones which contributed to us winning!

"I took many new skills and a lot of information away from the day. It is definitely something I would want to do again!"

Bryn Hafren teacher Miss Bryant said: "I would like to say 'thank you' to Cardiff and Vale College for such an interesting and inspirational day for the girls. The facilities were excellent – the hangar with the planes and equipment definitely has the wow factor as you walk in!

"Feedback from the pupils has been 100 per cent positive, which was echoed at a parents' evening a few days later.

"Most of all, the day has boosted the confidence of the girls greatly, not only with problem solving skills but with their team work and communication. It is a day that I would fully recommend to all schools – we are looking forward to coming back again next year to defend our title and beat our score!"

Charity says cancer patients are missing out on financial support

MACMILLAN WALES says it has secured £14.3 million in welfare benefits payments to help thousands of people cope with the huge financial pressures caused by cancer.

During 2017, the charity's nationwide network of welfare benefits advisers worked with over 5,600 people affected by cancer to help them access welfare benefits they are entitled to

Securing an average of £4,600 for every person referred into the service last year, the charity has now helped people affected by cancer to access over £89.3 million since 2010.

As most people diagnosed with cancer face an average of £570 a month in lost income or increased expenditure, money worries can quickly become a source of anxiety and concern for anyone who receives a cancer diagnosis.

The charity warns that not enough people with cancer are being offered financial help – with only 48 per cent of people who responded to a recent Wales Cancer Patient Experience Survey saying they had been given enough information about financial help and benefits.

Paul Davies, who was diagnosed with stomach cancer in 2013, said: "You really can't plan or save for cancer. Believe me, a little bit of financial help goes a long way when you are desperately ill but still having to worry about the bills.

"I'd worked nearly all my life in the UK, but had planned to enjoy some of my retirement in Cyprus. Then I was diagnosed with cancer. Weighing in at less than six stone and with a five per cent chance of survival, I came back to Wales expecting to die.

"We had to rush back with nothing, and we were really struggling. Then we met Macmillan. They not only helped plan my medical care, they also realised that there were other huge pressures and stresses as well.

"They talked through our options and what we might qualify for, and one day a cheque for £500 came through the door.

"It really helped set me up at the time when I needed it the most. That is why I now fundraise for Macmillan as well – we've paid that £500 back and then some, to try and make sure there is support available for the next person who needs it."

Richard Pugh, head of services for Macmillan Cancer Support in Wales, said: "No-one should underestimate just how big the financial impact of cancer can be.

"We know that money is the next biggest worry for anyone affected by cancer after they have got over the shock of their initial diagnosis.

"That is why we have put a nationwide network of welfare benefits advisers in place to try and alleviate some of the pressure for anyone affected by cancer in Wales.

"If you have cancer, please seek financial advice as early as you can. If you are a professional involved in cancer care, let people know about our services and the support that is available. We really can help to take some of the pressure off."

If you have been affected by cancer, or would like to find out what financial support is available, call Macmillan's free helpline on 0808 808 00 00 or visit macmillan.org.uk/money worries.

Social housing is planned for Provincial House in Barry.

Social housing plan at Barry office block

A PLANNING application has been submitted to convert an office building in central Barry into social housing accommodation.

The three-storey 17,297 sq ft Provincial House office block in Kendrick Road has been purchased by SGR Real Estate.

If its planning application is approved, with a decision expected imminently, Kestrel Construction will convert the building into 32 apartments on behalf of social housing provider Hafod.

Hafod is a group of not-for-profit companies that work together to provide housing, care and support services across south Wales.

Commercial property consultant Knight Frank handled the sale on behalf of the owners and Grace Shackell from Knight Frank's Cardiff office said: "The Vale is lacking in development opportunities and when we invited best bids from the market, there was a lot of interest.

"The property was not on the market for long and SGR succeeded with their unconditional offer."

Kes Smith of Kestrel Construction said: "The town centre location is ideal for social housing use. We are confident we will be able to gain the necessary consents. The conversion programme is likely to take up to 18 months."

LDR

Prolific 'car-wash burglar' fails to make clean getaway

A SERIAL burglar who targeted nine car wash businesses across south Wales and the south-west of England in just seven days is behind bars.

Mark Farrington was caught alongside accomplice Anton Sidoryk as they fled the final burglary in Weston-super-Mare and made their way back to Wales on February 21 this year.

The two were travelling in a Mercedes Vito van bearing false number plates, which had been linked to a string of other burglaries carried out in south Wales and Gwent in the days before. They were pulled over by a roads policing officer from Avon and Somerset Police, and arrested for driving and theft offences.

Officers from Barry's Priority Policing Team – who led the investigation and had highlighted the vehicle as suspicious – were able to link Farrington to all nine incidents, during which four vehicles were stolen along with quantities of cash, mobile phones and computer equipment.

The van in which they were caught was owned by Farrington and had previously been reported as stolen by him. CCTV footage from one of the burglaries at the IMO Car Wash in Barry, clearly identified him as one of the burglars.

At Cardiff Crown Court earlier this month, Farrington, of Whitchurch, Cardiff, pleaded guilty to nine counts of burglary, taking a vehicle without consent, and driving without insurance.

Mark Farrington burgled the IMO Car Wash in Barry.

He was sentenced to three years' imprisonment and handed a 30-month driving ban.

Anton Sidoryk, from Tremorfa, Cardiff, pleaded guilty to the Weston-super-Mare burglary, and was sentenced to 16 months, suspended for two years. He must also carry out 180 hours of unpaid work.

Detective Sergeant Julian Kerslake said: "Mark Farrington is a prolific offender and I've no doubt he would have targeted more businesses had he not been caught alongside Anton Sidoryk as they made their way back to Wales with the latest haul of stolen goods.

"The conviction is the result of some determined efforts by my team to identify those responsible for the string of audacious burglaries and bring them to justice as quickly as possible. I'd also like to thank our colleagues in Avon and Somerset Police Force for their assistance with this enquiry."

PC

Benefits advice is on offer

ARE you living in Vale and need some advice or help on benefits such as pension credit, attendance allowance, housing benefit, disability living allowance, or PIP?

Age Connects Cardiff and Vale run a free Welfare Rights Service which can help you with any of these issues and help with form filling.

A session will be held on Tuesday, May 1 at Age Connects Cardiff and Vale Senior Health Shop, 38 Holton Road, Barry.

No appointment is needed, just come along from 9.30am-12noon.

Contact 01446 732385 for further information and if you need a home visit.

Ship-shape and Bristol fashion?

Families wanted as BBC casts net for 'creel life' TV series

IN *The Hunt for Red October*, the line "And the sea will grant each man new hope, as sleep brings dreams of home" is attributed to Christopher Columbus, and it strikes a chord with many*.

Similarly, whether a night owl or an early bird, Radio 4's *Shipping Forecast* connects many a landlubber with this nation's seafaring heritage.

So perhaps it is no great surprise that a new immersive living history series – being produced by Wildflame Productions for BBC Wales – focuses on our connection with the coast.

The series will take families back to 1906 to form a traditional fishing community on the rugged Welsh coastline.

For a month, those selected will live and work as our forebears did. Clothes, employment, food, entertainment, socialising... Everything.

Home will be a fisherman's cottage with no mod cons, and all the money to live on will be earned from the coast.

A spokesperson said: "Families taking part will endure the best and the worst of what the wild Sea can throw at them, and while life will be tough, it is sure to be a unique and exhilarating experience. We are looking for four diverse families to take part; families that reflect Wales today, but who would like to experience the Wales of yesterday.

"Knowledge of fishing or sailing is not necessary, but Wildflame is keen to talk to people with ancestral links to the sea.

"Perhaps their great-grandfather was a lighthouse keeper or fisherman, or had a grandmother was a cockle woman. "Maybe their parents or grandparents came to Wales as sailors or may have worked as shipbuilders or in the docks.

"The options are varied and potentially endless but the most important thing of all is that the people who apply are excited and keen for the challenge."

Interested? Well, before your grab your sou'wester and don your seaboots, visit www.wildflameproductions.co/casting to apply online.

For more information, email casting@wildflameproductions.co.uk, or call 07599 812383.

The closing date for applications is May 27.

AJ

**Columbus did not say it; it was written for the film by screenwriter Larry Ferguson.*

For all the latest news from your area - glamorgan-gem.co.uk

'Park activities could boost income'

A VALE Council report has proposed that areas of open space land such as Porthkerry Park, Cosmeston Park and Leckwith woods should be leased to organisations who want to develop activities and facilities there.

Bob Guy, the council operational manager for regeneration, said the idea was to boost tourism, the local economy and boost council coffers.

"We believe these proposals represent exciting opportunities that will add to the appeal of the locations in question, enhancing the visitor experience by offering fresh ways in which they can be enjoyed.

"They will also boost tourism, which will have positive consequences for the local economy as tourism generates income and local jobs.

"In a climate of increased financial pressures on the council, it is vital new and innovative ways to generate income are explored to sustain important services and protect our special places.

"These important sites cost a lot to maintain to the exceptional standards rightly expected by the public.

"Sustainability will be key, with any successful proposals subject to all appropriate processes. That includes planning consent, which, among other factors, evaluates environmental impact and any recommendations or requirements made by Natural Resources Wales and other statutory bodies.

"The planning process also involves an opportunity for public consultation."

One GEM reader contacted the paper to say she had her concerns about camping and high rope activities going ahead at Porthkerry Park.

"I personally think this will ruin the space and threaten the wildlife in the park, with both buzzards and sparrowhawks roosting in the trees.

"Facilities would also have to be built to accommodate the campers such as toilets and showers which would also impact the area, which is small.

"I do not have local knowledge of the other sites they want to lease but think that they would not benefit from being over-developed either."

Tennis season now under way for local club

The under-8 team: Lily Niblett-Morris (8), Julia Papierowska (8), Kirsten Jones (8) and Ethan Ashburner (6)

THE summer tennis season has started well for Barry Community Tennis Club.

After starting 2018 by winning the accolade of Tennis Wales Community Venue of the Year 2017, the club has already seen victories in the south Wales leagues for both the women's doubles teams and the under-8 teams.

The women hosted Canton Tennis Club at the weekend and won overall by securing more sets than their opponents, while the under-8 team have already played Llantrisant, winning 14-2, and have also beaten Llantwit Major Tennis Club with a 16-0 victory.

The club also field a men's team, who were unsuccessful in their first round of matches against Haverfordwest.

If you would be interested in becoming part of this thriving club, sessions run for all ages and abilities, and you can find their timetable in the noticeboard adjacent to the courts at Romilly Park and on their Facebook page.

For more information, emailinfo@barryctc.co.uk or call 07816 311263.

PM

The Barry and District League tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

Cadoxton Cons 7, Rhoose Social 8; Wyndham Cons 8, West End 7; Liberals 8, Moors Boys 7.

League table: Liberals 187, Wyndham Cons 183, Rhoose Social 177, Cadoxton Cons 170, West End Runaways 169, West End 167, Moors Boys 162.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

King William XII 6, Liberals C 1; Rugby Club 6, Rhoose Social C 1; Rhoose Social A 2, Sea View B 5; Cambrian Flyers 1, West End C 6; Rhoose Social B 5, Slammers 2; Rhoosters 6, Allsorts 1; Liberals A 1, Barry Town FC 6; Barries Boys 0, West End D 7.

League table: Sea View B 128.5, West End D 124.5, Rugby Club 111.0, West End C 103.5, Rhoose Social C 100.5, King William XII 99.0, Rhoose Social B 95.5, Rhoose Social A 88.5, Rhoosters 88.5, Barry Town FC 84.5, Allsorts 80.5, Slammers 80.0, Liberals A 63.5, Liberals C 63.5, Cambrian Flyers 53.5, *Barries Boys 49.0.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Services Social B 3, Rhoose Social B 2; Savoy B 2, Penarth Cons A 3; Cadoxton Cons B 3, Liberators 2; Harbour B 4, Savoy A 1; Cadoxton Cons Z 3, Wyndham Cons A 2.

League table: Harbour B 113, Savoy A 95, Wyndham Cons A 74, Cadoxton Cons Z 70, Cadoxton Cons B 68, West End C 65, Liberators 54, Penarth Cons A 49, *Savoy B 41, Rhoose Social B 38, *Services Social B 36.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Cadoxton Misfits 3, West End B 2; Harbour A 2, Wyndham Cons D 3; Market Street C 4, Sully Sports A 1; West End A 2, Rhoose Social C 3; Penarth Cons B 2, Market Street B 3.

League table: Cadoxton Misfits 82, Market Street B 75, Rhoose Social C 73, Penarth Cons B 67, Cadoxton Cons A 66, Harbour A 64, Market Street C 64, Wyndham Cons D 63, West End A 56, Sully Sports A 54, West End B 51 (* = points deducted).

All league and cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk and on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'.

JW

Ysgol Bro are the top dogs in schools rugby tournament

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwgn rugby team.

A PRIMARY schools' rugby tournament – open to all schools in the Vale – was held on April 20, at Maslin Park on Barry Island .

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Morgannwg Junior School entered a team of 10 boys from years 5 and 6 and were delighted to win all their matches.

Mr Tomi Turner commented: "We are really pleased with the result. It's another achievement for our growing school. The boys played extremely well to win the matches, some were very close games as all teams played to a high standard. Da iawn chi."

Chess teams in good form

BARRY Chess Club are almost at the last week of the league season.

We played two league matches and there was also the fourth round of the Welsh Chess Premier League to consider.

The Vale team in the Premier League entered the penultimate round with a 100 per cent record. We were away to the White Knights who had two wins from their three matches so far.

Four of the six players in each team were fairly evenly-matched in rating terms although we held the upper hand in the other two.

Tim Kett, Pete Heaven, Nigel Ralphs, Lee Davis and Robert Taylor all won their games. On bottom board Sam Jukes took a draw to give us a victory by the excellent margin of 5.5-0.5.

This maintains our position at the top of the table and increases our tie break advantage with only one round to go, so we are guaranteed a top two finish.

Our final game is against third-placed Cardigan. I believe our tie break position is so strong that even if we were to lose this last match we only need to pick up 1.5 points from the six on offer to be crowned as champions.

Wouldn't it be great to finish unbeaten with a victory in the final round as well?

There was a vital game in Division 2 where the Camelots faced the Cardiff AJ's.

We still needed 1.5 points to avoid a possible relegation and they needed 1.5 points to be promoted.

The game ended in a 2.5-2.5 draw so both teams more than earned enough to complete their objectives.

Sam Jukes and Tom Cooke both earned victories for the Camelots against higher-rated opponents. John Ryles completed our points with a draw.

This means that next season our four existing teams will be playing in four different divisions.

In Division 4 the Gambits travelled to North Cardiff to play the Zebras.

These were the bottom two teams in the division with the Zebras five points above the Gambits and five points below the Rhondda B team.

The Zebras had a young team, indeed the combined age of their players was less than my age!

The tables were set up so large that I thought the Zebras players might be unable to reach their pieces if they strayed over the halfway mark.

We have already played the Zebras twice this season earning a draw in our first encounter and losing 4-1 in the reverse fixture.

Surely it was our turn to win? Well, win we duly did with Sam White, Ken Curry, Dave Mahoney and Erion Pici all earning wins.

Unfortunately I could not complete the set as I ended the match with a draw where my opponent could only play perpetual check to prevent my victory.

We remain bottom with only one match to play. We are within touching distance of the Zebras and need a draw to reach 30 points for the season, a figure that until recently seemed way out of our grasp.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club, St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY.

The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

League opener ends in defeat for Penarth Windsor

AFTER a couple of friendlies, last Saturday saw the first league fixture for Penarth Windsor Bowls Club with the PG2 team travelling to Pontyclun.

It was always going to be a struggle against a particularly strong Pontyclun outfit but the team acquitted itself well by winning on two of the four rinks. Sadly the losing rinks went down heavily, resulting in a 90-62 defeat.

The winning rinks were: White, Fullbrook, Morrish and Howells 20-15, together with Woodcock, Williams, Cucciniello and Hales 23-15.

In the latter match, the team scored seven shots on one end, one short of the magical full house.

Cucciniello was distraught at being the player whose one wood was off target but when the news was received at the clubhouse, he received only ridicule rather than the sympathy he expected.

At home, there was a friendly against Llantrisant. Unfortunately, the visitors turned up two short so the match went ahead with two fours and two triples.

The scores were: captain Thorne, Rees and Hope 21-14, Flitney, Ellard, Hudson and McLeod 22-23, Gooding, Paterson and Woodcock 20-19, Matthews, Lloyd-Jones Carlisle and Holmes 27-7; overall score 90-63 to Windsor.

The two new recruits - Carlisle and the returning Paterson - were on top form on their debuts.

The club open day took place on Sunday, April 22 and both greens were full with new bowlers trying out the sport for the first time.

To date nearly 30 new members of all ages have applied to join, but of course, there is always room for more.

If you are interested, call John on 029 20308161 or Pete on 07816 910113.

PM

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then get in touch with us - email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Cowbridge Tennis Club news round-up

THE first round of matches for all the Cowbridge senior and junior teams were played mostly over this weekend.

Daisy Buick and Millie Davis.

The juniors continued to show the investment by the coaches has paid off with Chris Lewis and Gruff John, in their first ever tennis match, winning 2-1 against Aberystwyth in a closely -ought under-16 boys match.

Daisy Buick and Millie Davis (pictured) debuted together playing two away matches, firstly losing in a close match to Stow Park (Newport).

Daisy didn't even have time to change out of her Cowbridge hockey gear having hot-footed it from Swansea where she had played an under-12 hockey tournament that morning!

The girls put the experience of their first match to good use, coming from behind in each of their matches to record an away win at Rhibwina.

The senior teams had varying fortunes and like last season, the ladies are setting the early pace. Encouragingly, four of our under-14/under-13 girls - Lily Buick, Ella Davies, Libby Roberts, Beth Heald - played for our ladies thirds team in our debut in the two-pair senior league.

Again, to their and our coaches credit, they won against Newport who were fielding a full strength adult team.

The ladies first team, having been promoted to Division 2 this year, started with an excellent good 5-1 win over Penarth Windsor, all the more creditable as all were new pairings compared to last year.

Similarly, the promoted ladies second team kicked off with a 4-2 win over Penarth Windsor.

In what might be described as a Penarth Windsor weekend, our mens first team in Premier 3 had a tough outing away to Windsor's firsts but there was no shame in losing 6-0 against a team with three professional coaches and Welsh internationals!

The mens seconds faced a similar scoreline against a strong Mactintosh outfit who again fielded a professional coach. Thankfully, our mens thirds redeemed the club's and men's honour with a fine 5-1 victory away to Cardiff Castle.

A reminder that our club open day is this bank holiday Monday, May 7, 11am to 3pm.

All members of the public are free to come along and test your service speed against an LTA speed gun or enjoy the free raffle for prizes, free coaching, try to beat the coach, witness an exhibition match, test your own tennis skills on court, the obligatory strawberries and cream, a bit of bubbly, BBQ and the Wimbledon ticket ballot at 3pm.

The club has a thriving membership and there are opportunities for all to play most nights, Saturday afternoons and ladies mornings so you can play where you feel most comfortable.

We are a friendly family-orientated club and are always welcoming new members.

More detailed information is available on our website https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/CowbridgeTennisClub or please call our coach Ian Duggan on 07919 816609.

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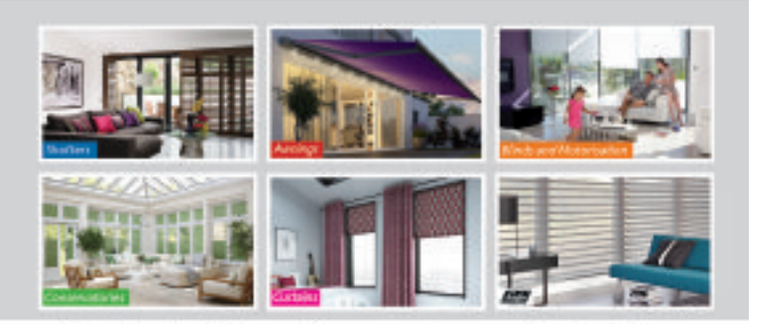

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Family Notices

REES
Dorothy Anne

Peacefully at Bethany House, Archer Road, Barry Island on 20th April, Dorothy Anne, much loved sister and auntie.

Dorothy will be sadly missed by all her loving family, carers and friends.

Resting in the care of A.G. Adams Funeralcare, Gladstone Road, Barry until her funeral service and committal at the Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium Barry, Friday, 11th May at 1pm.

Flowers may be sent to the funeral home.

DUNKERTON
Bertram Stanley 'Stan'

Peacefully at Llandough Hospital on 21st April 2018, Stan, aged 95 years. Beloved husband of Nita and formerly of the late Jeanne. Much loved dad of John, Andrew, Susan and David and a loved grandad and great grandad.

Stan will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service at Barry Cemetery Chapel on Tuesday, 15th May at 1.30pm, followed by interment in the cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Cancer Research c/o the funeral director.

WILLIAMS
Edna 'Doreen'

Suddenly on Tuesday, 17th April, Doreen sadly passed away at the Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend. Wife of the late Howell, beloved mother, nan and great grandmother.

Resting at the Private Funeral Home of W. James & Sons, Fonmon. Funeral Monday, 14th May, service 1.15 pm at Coychurch Crematorium, Bridgend. Family flowers only.

To advertise your **Situations Vacant, Family Notices, Birthdays, Anniversaries, etc. Call Sue on 01446 774484. email: sales@glamorgan-gem.co.uk**

JONES
Elizabeth Ann 'Liz'

Peacefully on 23rd April at Marie Curie Hospice Penarth with her family surrounding her, Liz, aged 60 years. Beloved partner of Julian, much loved sister of Jeff, Martin, Gordon and Raydene. Loved aunt to her nieces and nephew.

Liz will be sadly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service in the Chapel of Rest on Wednesday, 9th May at 1.30pm, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery. Family flowers only, donations in lieu, if so desired, for Marie Curie Hospice Penarth c/o the funeral director.

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ANGEL
Grace Violet

Peacefully at Barry Community Hospital on 23rd April, Grace sadly passed away. Devoted wife of the late Vince, much loved mum of Raymond, Rosemary, Michael, Julie, Peter, Michelle, Linda and Mark. An adored nan to her grandchildren, cherished nan nan to her great grandchildren and loving sister of Ivy.

Grace will be dearly missed by all her family and many friends.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until her service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Tuesday, 8th May at 11am.

Family floral tributes only. Donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support the Stroke Unit at Llandough Hospital in memory of Grace.

Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis on telephone 01446 407962.

BENNETT
Jane (*Grimble*)

Loving wife to the late Howard, mother, grandmother and great grandmother, sadly passed away on 18th April 2018 at Llandough Hospital.

Jane will be greatly missed by all her family and friends.

Resting at Robert D. Johnson Funeral Directors, 29 Holton Road, Barry. Funeral service to take place at Cardiff and Glamorgan crematorium, Port Road, Barry on Wednesday, 9th May at 2pm. Donations in lieu of flowers will be greatly received by Jane's family for Kidney Research; these can be given to the funeral director or at the Seaview Labour Club, Dock View Road, Barry after the service.

BATE
Howard

Suddenly but peacefully at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on 23rd April 2018, Howard, aged 77 years, formerly of Rhoose and Barry. Dearly loved brother of Jocelyn and the late Graham and Adrian. Much loved uncle to all his nieces and nephews.

Howard will be sadly missed by all his family and friends.

Resting at A.G. Adams Funeralcare until the service on Monday, 14th May at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium at 2pm.

Flowers may be sent or donations in lieu, if so desired, for The Dogs Trust c/o the funeral director.

CADOGAN
Russell

Russell Cadogan, aged 94, of Heol Tysant, Litchard (previously of Pencoed and Coity) passed away peacefully in the early hours of Thursday, 26 April 2018, following a short period of hospitalisation, at Princess of Wales Hospital, Bridgend.

Devoted husband of Brenda, much loved father of Martin, Wendy and the late Robert, father-in-law to Anne and Teresa. Grandfather to John, Christopher, Phillip, Andrew, Rhian, Sian and Carys and great grandfather to Emily, Hallie, Ella and Shaye. Public service at Coychurch Crematorium on Thursday, 10 May 2018 at 11am.

Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to the Wales Air Ambulance or British Heart Foundation c/o Mel & Ron Watkins Funeral Services, 2 Hilda House, The Square, Pencoed, Bridgend, CF35 5NP. (Tel: 01656 860545)

Family Notices

WEEKES
Branwen Mair

Peacefully at home on 25th April, Branwen passed away, aged 96 years.

Resting at W.A. Brown Funeralcare, Llantwit Major until the service at Cardiff and Glamorgan Memorial Park and Crematorium on Friday, 4th May at 5pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations welcome to Shelter Cymru, 25 Walter Road, Swansea, SA1 5NN.

PENNELL
Roger

03.08.1936 - 27.04.2018

Without any fuss, Roger died on Friday, 27th April at Princess of Wales Hospital. Beloved husband to Margaret, adored father to Andrea, Kate and Liz, proud grandpa to Thomas, Hywel, Annabel and Florence.

Funeral to take place at Coychurch Crematorium, 9.30am on Thursday, 10th May. Family flowers only.

HUGGETT
Maureen Patricia (Mo)

Peacefully on 27th April at Springbank Nursing Home - Maureen, beloved Wife of the late Trevor. A loving Partner to Bob and much loved Mum of Gwen, Debbie, Derek and their families. A dear Sister to Margaret.

Mo will be dearly missed by all who knew and loved her.

Resting in the care of Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, Court Road, Barry until a celebration of her life at Cardiff and Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, 14th May at 12 noon. Family flowers only, donations, if desired, may be made at the service to support Barry RNLI in memory of Mo.

Further enquiries contact Lyndsay Ellis, telephone 01446 407962.

In Memory

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Hagar Rosina Margaret
(Known as Maggie)

1 May 2010

Eight years have passed, but you will never be forgotten,
Always in our thoughts, love and miss you forever.
From your loving daughters and son,
Annette, Jean and Christopher *xxx*

WILLIAMS
Ronnie

4th May

Special memories on your 80th birthday, always in our thoughts, never forgotten.

Love and miss you,
Winnie, Jenny, Joanne & family xx

Pet In Memory

'Moby'

17/04/2002 - 09/05/2017

'Someone who understands me and knows me inside out, who helps keep me together and believes without a doubt, that I could move a mountain and someone to tell it to, If I had only one friend left, I'd want it to be you'

From your forever loving family xxx.

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Acknowledgements

TUCK
Graham

William Graham Tuck is at rest and in peace.

The family of Graham would like to thank everyone who came to pay their respects to such a wonderful man. Thanks also extends to Lyndsay Ellis and his team at Vale Funeral Services for the care and kindness provided as well as Lorraine Barrett for her lovely, beautiful words. A thank you also to Tynewydd Inn staff for their service during the wake.

PARTRIDGE
Olive Valerie

The family of the late Olive Valerie of Tordoff Way, Barry wish to thank Reverend C. Seaton for officiating at the funeral service.

Also, all family and friends for attending and for the wonderful floral tributes, messages of sympathy and cards received.

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Previous experience of working in local government, especially in a Town or Community Council environment, would be advantageous.

An Application Form and Job Specification/ Description can be obtained from the Town Clerk, Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council, Town Hall, 21 High street, Cowbridge, CF71 7AD. Tel No. 01446 773385 or email – enquiries@cowbridge-tc.gov.uk or online at www.cowbridge-tc.gov.uk.
CVs will not be accepted.

Closing date: Friday, 18th May at noon. Interviews will be held on Thursday, 24th May 2018

Cowbridge with Llanblethian Town Council is striving to be an equal opportunity employer and welcomes applications from all sections of the community.

Public Notice

Public Notice
Licensing Act 2003

To whom it may concern, I, **Simon Griffiths,** do hereby give notice that I have applied to the Licensing Authority (Vale of Glamorgan Council) for the grant of a premises licence at: **Coedarhydyglyn, Saint Nicholas, CF5 6SF** known as **Coedarhydyglyn Park.**
THE LICENSABLE ACTIVITIES WILL BE:

Sale of Alcohol For Consumption on Site: Friday 27th July 2018, Saturday 28th July 2018, Sunday 29th July 2018 12pm – 2am

Provision of Live Music: Friday 27th July 4pm – 12am, Saturday 28th July 12.30pm – 12am, Sunday 29th July 12.30pm – 12am

Provision of Recorded Music: Friday 27th July 2pm – 2am, Saturday 28th July 2pm – 2am, Sunday 29th July 2pm – 2am.

Any persons wishing to make representations to this application may do so in writing to the Licensing Department, Vale of Glamorgan Council, Civic Offices, Holton Road, Barry, CF63 4RU, or by email to licensing@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk not later than 28 days after the date of this notice. Representations received after this date will not be considered. A copy of this application can be viewed at the Civic Offices at normal office hours. It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with this application, the maximum fine on summary conviction being £5,000.
Signed: Simon Griffiths
Date 24th April 2018.

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Banners that break the law attract fines

LOCAL organisations have been warned that the Vale Council is cracking down on banners on highways.

The council told The GEM that its main consideration was 'safety' and that organisations needed to realise that they had seek permission before putting a banner in a location.

Plaid Cymru's Dinas Powys councillors say the council should get in touch with voluntary groups to clarify what steps they can take if they want to publicise an event, rather than organisations approaching the council.

Councillors say they are concerned about banners relating to village shows, Christmas concerts, charitable fund raisers and sports events.

Cllr Chris Franks said that he was 'shocked' to learn that sports bodies and other community groups had received fines of £75.

He said: "This was a bill for simply placing temporary banners at locations such as the railings at Parc Bryn y Don, Dinas Powys.

"Respectable, hard-working volunteers were being threatened that unless they paid up almost immediately the bill could run to thousands.

"It is difficult to understand the mentality of the council. On one hand they say they want to support the community then they threaten clubs with court action."

Plaid said that following representations made by them the Vale had cancelled some fines.

Cllr Franks added: "This is welcomed. We call for the Vale to fully consider its policies and come up with acceptable arrangements. We know that the safety of people is the priority. However, this blanket ban will hit voluntary organisations.

"It is using a sledge hammer to crack a nut. There must be a solution where community events can be advertised without compromising safety."

Miles Punter, Vale Council director of environment and housing services, emphasised that placing banners on the highway without proper permission is an offence.

"The placing of banners on the highway without the authority of the council is an offence. The primary concern is highway safety, as banners can obscure driver visibility, particularly when they are attached to pedestrian barriers.

"In the past we have charged offenders the cost of removing and storing banners for their return.

"However, we have recently started to issue fixed penalty notices for this offence as their removal is taking up valuable resources that could be better spent on services."

Mr Punter added: "Placing banners on the highway without authority is an offence regardless of their purpose so the council is unable to differentiate between those that are put up for charitable or voluntary purposes and those using the space for commercial gain." **TC**

Council makes plans to supply 'free' sanitary products in schools

SANITARY products could soon be handed out to all schoolgirls in the Vale.

Products such as tampons and towels could soon be provided free at the point of use at schools across the Vale after councillors gave their backing to a scheme tackling 'period poverty' in the area.

A working group will decide how to implement the plans after the council's Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee unanimously voted in favour of the idea on Monday (April 23).

A £1 million fund from Welsh Government has been launched to tackle soc-called period poverty and councils including Rhondda Cynon Taf and Merthyr are already developing similar schemes.

The committee heard some girls are missing school due to embarrassment regarding their periods, and some mothers are going without sanitary products so they can buy them for their daughters instead.

Cllr Jayne Norman, who called the debate, told the committee that free sanitary products should be "an automatic right to all."

She said: "Menstruation affects every woman. We have no choice in the matter. And period poverty does exist – even in the 'affluent' Vale.

"To many, this topic is never discussed due to cultural or religious reasons.

"To many young women and girls, admitting that they are even having their period is embarrassing enough, without having to confess that their family cannot afford to buy them the sanitary protection they need.

"Many secondary schools already have some facilities in place to help alleviate this problem, but this is money spent out of their already very tight budgets.

"Junior schools, on the other hand, have to rely heavily on the generosity of staff members, or even in some cases, parents of some of the children.

"The facilities available to the pupils for the discreet disposal of any sanitary products is virtually non-existent."

The Vale Council found seven of its eight comprehensive schools provide the sanitary products free of charge, while one school charges 20p for each use.

A total of 12 of the 16 Vale primary schools which responded to the council offer the products free of charge, while at other schools either parents or teachers provide them.

The committee was first asked to debate the issue in November last year.

Cllr Margaret Wilkinson told the meeting: "I'm disappointed this has taken a long time to come to this committee.

"This is a poverty issue. This is a hidden, quiet problem. Girls don't want to talk about it.

"If we're getting money from the Welsh Assembly that's good but we don't want to wait for it. We need this now."

The Vale Council will receive £31,500 from the Welsh Government this financial year for sanitary equipment to be installed in schools, and £8,666 to buy the sanitary products themselves.

A working group will now be set up to look at how the free sanitary products plan can be implemented. But it would need cabinet approval to purchase any products or equipment, the meeting was told.

Ceri Reeves, secretary of campaigning group Wings Cymru, told the meeting: "This is about girls not missing school for one week per month, girls not curtailing their activities for one week per month.

"We would like to help all people who have periods if they have issues but girls in schools seem like an easy one to tick."

LDR

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On and Off The Turf with Brian Lee

ELEVEN horses faced the starter for the Dunraven Bowl Novices' Hunters' Steeplechase at Chepstow last Friday evening and the horse which had travelled the longest distance to Wales' premier racecourse - 114 miles in fact - the well-backed favourite, *Tinkers Hill Tommy*, who had been runner-up to *Repeat Business* in last year's race, cruised home some 19 lengths ahead of *Kilcrea Bridge* ridden by Ogmore-by-Sea's Nick Williams.

Welsh ladies' champion Jodie Hughes cut out the early running on *Essteepee* trained by Bridgend's Sherrie Lean.

However, Herefordshire-born Peter Bryan had *Tinkers Hill Tommy* in a handy position throughout and taking a clear lead two fences from home won so easily that he was able to ease his mount near the finish.

Sponsor David Brace OBE had two horses in the race - *Robin Des People*, ridden by Bradley Gibbs, and *Pink Eyed Pedro*, partnered by his 16-year-old grandson Connor Brace - and they finished third and fourth respectively with just a neck separating them.

Tinkers Hill Tommy is owned by west Wales' Dewi Lewis, one of the most unassuming gentlemen I have had the pleasure of meeting during more than half-a-century of reporting on the Welsh hunt racing scene.

Tinkers Hill Tommy, a seven-year-old bay gelding by *King's Theatre*, is trained by Dewi's daughter-in-law Bridget Lewis, who, like her husband Mark, was a succesful point-to-point rider. In fact, Mark was second in this race some years ago.

The three other finishers were *Essteepee* (5), *High Hatton* (6) and *Charlie Breekie* (7).

There was an exciting finish earlier in the evening when *Lord Bryan*, owned by Jayne Brace and her father Gwyn and trained by Haverfordwest's Peter Bowen, beat *Beallandendall,* trained by Chepstow's Debbie Faulkner, in the Dunraven Windows Handicap Steeplechase.

The latter appeared to have an eight lengths lead over the pacemaking *Lord Bryan* jumping the last.

However, somehow *Lord Bryan,* carrying a hefty 11st, 12lbs in heavy ground and partnered by Robert Dunne, got home by half-a-length from the bottom-weighted ten-year-old son of *Beneficial* who was ridden by Nick Scholfield.

The closing Braceys National Hunt Maiden Hurdle resulted in another win for Dunne, who won on Bridgend trainer John Flint's bay mare *Arian,* which scored by three-and-a-half lengths from the Peter Bowen-trained *Francky Du Berlais*.

COWBRIDGE RIDER'S DOUBLE

Cowbridge's Byron Moorcroft, 30, landed a double at Sunday's Gelligaer Farmers Hunt Steeplechases at picturesque but very cold Rhydgwern, where the going was probably the best it has been in Wales this season.

Byron took the opening Members & Farmers race on Kevin Salter's *Spencer Moon*, voted the best turned-out horse in the race, and the Young Horse Maiden on the same owner's *Mister Buddy*.

The former won by 15 lengths from *BallyCash* and the latter, which was heavily backed, won by four lengths from *PersistantPrincess*.

Mister Buddy, a five year old grey gelding, used to race over hurdles for Vale trainer Tim Vaughan, and Moorcroft said: "He's a very sketchy jumper and I was lucky to stay in the saddle."

Llancarfan's Isabel Williams won the Mixed Open on the 11-year-old *Hold Court* who, in an exciting finish beat the pacemaking *Tiger Rag* (Anna Lewis) by two lengths.

Hold Court, who was notching up his third win of the season, is owned and trained by Isabel's grandmother Mary Evans in Pembrokeshire.

Isabel said: "All the credit really has to go to my grandmother who has done all the work with him."

An eight times winner under Rules when trained by Isabel's father Evan, *Hold Court* will carry on until the end of the season as long as there is some give in the ground.

The Mickey Bowen-trained and hooded *Hospital*, ridden by his owner Elen Nicholas, came from last to first to pip *Carry On Nando* by a short head in the Confined race.

The delighted Elen, 21, from north Wales, works for Peter Bowen and she has no idea how her horse, a four time winner in Ireland, got its unusual name.

However, the fact that *Hospital* is by *King's Theatre* might give us a clue.

There was a close finish to the Restricted race in which Ogmore-by-Sea's Nick Williams, riding Tommy Faulkner's *Kensington Castle*, jumped the last alongside the favourite *Chasing Casey* and got up to win by a short head. The winner is apparently up for sale.

There was another tight finish in the Aged Maiden when Roger Weaver's 11-year-old mare *Karigale*, ridden by Rilly Goshen, was judged to have finished a neck in front of *Double Miss*.

Rilly, who has ridden 19 winners under Rules, was chalking-up her 130th winner between-the-flags.

Karigale, who had finished runner-up to *Classic Hit* in this race last year, and who had been pulled up in her previous two races was the oldest horse – or in this case mare – in the race.

Barry and District Ladies Skittles League results

WEEK commencing April 23:

Division 1: Bakers Dozen 287 (S.Howe 30), Pila Pala 271 (M.Jones 29); Barry Stars 340 (D.James 34), Family & Friends 318 (S.Brown 34); Sea View Gals 302 (C.Gaffney 34), Allsorts 282 (H.James 29); Cadoxton Con Fillies 245 (T.Dyball 30), Space Finders 221 (E.Worthy 24);

Fallen Angels 232 (R.Phillips 27), Cigar Ladies 256 (A.McCarthy & L.Webb 25).

Division 2: Castle Bandits 250 (K.Lloyd 26), Roller Coasters 273 (B.Maffey 29); Witchil Widows 309 (L.Spyros 34), Clickies 296 (M.Thomas 37); Rhoose Starlights 259 (K.Bryan 26), Airways Angels 228 (A.Sales 26); Sea View Lights 184 (N.Alsop 27), Special Angels 268 (C.Thomas 34).

Division 3: Off the Rails 244 (J.Cattle 32), Vixens 253 (S.Curnick 26); After Eights 266 (M.Hellyar 30), Rebels 253 (P.Phillips 26); Rugby Triers 225 (J.Gough 24), Little Devils 209 (L.Bowsher 27); Westenders 234 (T.Stait 27), Sea View Ladies 247 (K.Lacny 28); Dolly Mixtures 196 (C.Abbott 25), Uptown Girls 206 (J.Peacock 31).

Division 4: Liberals 224 (G.Snier 26), Optimists 246 (D.Eason 24); Witchil Wanderers 296 (C.Morrissey 36), Boozy Birds 309 (S.Rudeforth 34); Odd Bods 202 (K.Bremen 31); Bimbos 237 (A.Burniston 27).

All outstanding matches must be played by May 11 or the game will be forfeited.

Could all secretaries attending the next meeting on May 14 please bring your score books as there are score cards that need verifying.

HB

WOLVES LIFT THE CUP!

AFC Wolves (formerly Dinas Wolves) managed to pull off a solid performance, beating Barry Town United to win the Junior Cup.

Wolves started slowly as they struggled with the new tactics, but within 20 minutes their striker Kyle Booker opened his account for the day.

Barry drew level 10 minutes later before Booker restored the lead following great work from Joe Doughty to leave the score 2-1 at the break.

Cole Saunders.

Barry again drew level midway through the second period forcing the game into extra time.

With seconds remaining Wolves centre back Jake Frost cleared his lines with a clip ball to send Cole Saunders through on goal.

Saunders showed a cool head as he lifted the ball over the Barry keeper to send the Wolves fans into party mood.

Congratulations to Barry on winning the league and we look forward to another healthy rivalry next season.

LS

Barry Athletic CC start season

ON Saturday Barry Athletic start the 2018 league season with a home game against Ponthir at The Athletic Ground, Barry Island.

The season looks like it could be a good one under the new captaincy of Billy Usswald, with renovations going on in the clubhouse with both cricket and football sections working together to make this happen.

The junior section is going from strength to strength, and the future looks bright.

The first XI are at home to Ponthir this Saturday, 12.30pm start, and the second XI travel to Monkswood for their first game, with a big Welsh Cup first round game also on the horizion on Sunday, May 13 as Barry will be taking on local rivals Penarth at The Athletic Ground, Barry Island.

Barry Athletic are also looking for sponsors - if you are interested please contact club secretary Mark Rees on 07398108608 or email markrees509@hotmail.com.

MR

Cowbridge Darts League round-up

ON Tuesday, April 24 a full programme of league matches was completed.

The Farmers Arms beat the Victoria Inn 5-4, the Six Bells Inn beat the Hairy Farmers 6-3 and the Highwayman Inn beat the Edmondes C 6-3.

The surprise result of the evening was Edmondes A defeating Llanharry 7-2. In this match Steve Simmonite (Edmondes A) hit a 180.

The awarded result of the match between the Edmondes B and the One Town Hall Square was 9-0.

Present league standings, after 19 weeks, are: Edmondes B (118 points), Six Bells Inn (110), Llanharry (109), Highwayman Inn (97), Edmondes A (92), Hairy Farmers (86), Edmondes C (80), Victoria Inn (71), Farmers Arms (65), One Town Hall Square (39) and Red Lion Inn (27).

Next week, Tuesday, May 8, the final of the Commemorative Cup competition will be played at the Farmers Arms.

The competing teams are Katie George, Jake Warren and Tom Gibbs-Murray (Victoria Inn) playing Hilarie Coles, Tony Denscombe and Phil Denscombe (Red Lion/Llanharry).

All matches start at 8.15pm and spectators are welcome. For further information e-mail Paul at cowbridgedarts@gmail.com, up-to-date information can be found on the website: www.darts.apsn.co.uk.

PJT

First cup final weekend sees plenty of action

Junior Cup Winners Barry Athletic FC

AAS the end of a long and much-delayed season approaches, the Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League, the cup finals start.

The first took place on Sunday, April 21 for the Junior Cup, the Year 11 divisional cup.

On a beautiful Sunday morning Barry Athletic FC took on Cogan Coronation AFC. Cogan took the lead but Barry Athletic FC responded with two goals to take home the trophy, the final score Barry Athletic FC 2, Cogan Coronation Mini & Juniors AFC 1.

Sunday, April 28 saw the Year 10 Divisional Cup take place with Wolves AFC taking on Barry Town United FC for the Steve Williams Memorial trophy.

Wolves AFC took the lead with a goal from Kyle Booker at the 15 minute mark.

Nial Chinn responded in the 32nd minute for Barry Town United FC, however, Kyle Booker grabbed his second four minutes later and Wolves took a 2-1 lead into the break.

Another Nial Chinn goal made it 2-2 and the score stayed the same until full time, with the only notable happening a red card for each team.

Extra-time came and the game looked set for penalties but after a Barry Town United FC attack left them open at the back, Cole Saunders latched on to a free ball.

A lob over the keeper seemed to take an age with the ball eventually falling into the open net for Wolves FC's third, the final score Wolves AFC 3, Barry Town United FC 2.

FC Barry Belgrade captain Josh Raffel with the ASRS Cup presented by Jason Pawlin

Wolves AFDC captain Zach Fifield with the Steve Williams trophy presented by Barry Town United manager Gavin Chesterfield.

In the afternoon the first senior final took place for the prestigious ASRS Cup.

The Premier Division League Cup saw FC Barry Belgrade take on Barry Athletic FC. Barry Belgrade took the lead with a goal from Dave Stephenson 15 minutes in.

The match played out without much incident until in the 86th minute – in scenes similar to the earlier match – Ben Pearce found the ball and space to go on the attack and draw Barry Athletic FC level.

A prolonged session of added time saw Dave Stephenson of Barry Belgrade get his second, and ultimately the winning, goal, the final score FC Barry Belgrade 2, Barry Athletic FC 1.

The Vale of Glamorgan Association Football League would like to thank Barry Town United FC manager Gavin Chesterfield, Barry Town United FC secretary David Cole and local football historian Jason Pawlin for presenting the medal and trophies after the games.

MD

Cup competition at Brynhill

BRYNHILL Golf Club finally shed its winter coat this week as the qualifier for the Bristol Cup knockout pairs competition saw the course playing to almost its maximum yardage – and a brisk north-easterly wind blowing up the first meant it wasn't a day for the faint-hearted.

The top 16 pairs went through to the knockout stages and top of the pile was Taylor Moore and Palmer with a superb 63 (nine under) with two pairs on 64 and two more one further back on 65.

This week also saw the culmination of the Winter League, a competition that epitomises the old 'marathon not a sprint' maxim.

The form book went out the window with this one, as the Anstee/Mills pairing saw off father and son duo Kevin and Dan Williams 3 and 2 in the final.

A big thank you to all who supported the Winter League.

ND

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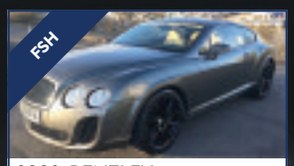

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Vale of Glamorgan Football League round-up

THERE were only three midweek games - but they were big ones.

Llantwit Major saw off Premier Division opposition to book their place in the final of the Barry Cup.

Goals from Lewis Brown, Josh Morgan, Colm Garrett and Jordan Davies gave them the win over Barry Athletic, 4-2.

Llantwit reserves are currently undefeated all season after having won every game in their first season back in the Vale league.

In the final they will play St Athan, who edged out FC Barry Belgrade, Reece Lewis and Karl Steel notching early to book St Athan's place in the Jenner Park showpiece on Sunday, May 6.

In the one league game played, Island Marine recorded an excellent 4-1 over Rhoose.

Onto the weekend's action, and Dave Stephenson scored a dramatic last-gasp winner as FC Barry Belgrade won the first silverware of the season, as they lifted the historic ASRS Cup after a 2-1 win over Barry Athletic at Jenner Park on Sunday.

Stephenson had given Belgrade the lead early in the game before Ben Pearce equalised for Athletic four minutes from time.

But with 95 minutes on the clock Belgrade won it.

Twenty four hours earlier, Premier Division league leaders St Athan ran out 3-0 winners over bottom side Penarth Town.

The win moves St Athan six points ahead of FC Barry Belgrade, although Belgrade have a mammoth five games in hand.

Island Marine continued their fine form with a 4-0 away win against Cowbridge Town - that's five games without a win for Town.

In Division One, leaders Sully Sports thumped Cwm Talwg 5-1. Sully can now win the Division One title this weekend if they collect all three points or if nearest rivals Barry Saints fail to win.

The Saints kept the pressure on Sully with a 5-3 victory over SP Billy to stay five points off top.

Cogan got back to winning ways with an impressive 4-1 away win against Cardiff Airport while Tynewydd continued their recent form with a narrow 1-0 win over Penarth Town B.

Penarth now face Cwm Talwg this week in a must-win game. Cadoxton Athletic's poor form went on as they lost a 10-goal thriller to Cadoxton Imps 6-4, a huge win for Imps in their quest for survival, but that's seven league losses on the bounce from Athletic.

In Division Two, just the one league game was played as the Dockers Cup semi-finals took centre stage.

In the league Island Marine B went fourth after a 1-0 win over bottom side Glenbrook.

In the Dockers Cup Llantwit Major secured their second cup final of the season with a 4-2 win over BRT Dynamos.

They will play Rhoose B after they emphatically booked their final berth with a 6-1 win over BVFC.

This weekend sees a league program and of course the Barry Cup final, St Athan and Llantwit Major will compete in the Vale league showpiece.

HD

Dinas Powys Golf Club ladies section results

On April 3, an 18 hole Stableford was held:

1st Samantha Saunders 40 points, 2nd Sue Bridle 34, 3rd Chris Nelms 29.

On April 17, the Australian Spoons 18 hole Stableford: 1st Sue Bridle & Annie Blackburn, 2nd Lisa Ryley & Sian Smith, 3rd Maxine Hird & Audrey Harwood.

Also on April 17, there was a nine hole Stableford: 1st Angela Brown, 2nd Dorothy Amery, 3rd Sue Thomas.

OnApril 24, the Challenge Bowls 18 hole Medal: Silver Division - 1st Sue Bridle 88 – 18 = 70, 2nd Lisa Ryley 89 – 15 =74, 3rd Ann Mahenthiralingam 90 – 12 = 78.

Bronze division - 1st Samantha Saunders 94 – 28 = 66, 2nd Ruth Yates 100 – 24 = 76, 3rd Audrey Harwood 101 – 24 = 77.

Congratulations to Samantha in having her handicap reduced and well done to all the ladies who have played during the inclement weather.

RY

Glamorgan Farmers battle it out at Rogerstone Golf Club

THE monthly meeting of the Glamorgan Farmers' Golf Society was held at a sunny Newport (Rogerstone) Golf Club where 30 members assembled to compete for a range of high quality prizes supplied by the day's sponsors Kelly, Harris and Conlon, group secretaries of the National Farmers' Union.

Society captain Keith James with winning golfers Godfrey Lewis, Ray Thomas, Trevor Wooding, Geoff Moore and sponsor Julian Kelly.

Established in 1903 and set in Llynwi Woods surrounded by rolling parkland, this famous course has a proud history.

It has staged many famous tournaments, with their next major event scheduled for 2020, when it hosts the Welsh Amateur Championships.

Despite the harsh winter that golf clubs have had to contend with, the condition of the course was exceptionally good providing the opportunity for the members to enjoy their day's golf.

At the conclusion of play just one point separated the top five with a count back over the back nine holes needed to determine Hugh Williams as the overall winner with 31 stableford points.

Hugh's back nine of 17 points proved crucial as runner-up Godfrey Lewis, also with 31 points, could only accumulate 15 on the back nine.

In third place, also with 31 points including 12 on the back nine, was Trevor Wooding. Ray Thomas with 30 points finished in fourth place just ahead of Bryan Owen, also with 30 points.

In the guest section, Geoff Moore took first place with the day's best score of 32 points.

In addition to the individual prizes, the NFU team event where one score over the first six holes, two scores on the next six and finally all three scores counting over the closing six holes proved an interesting challenge.

The winners of the team event, with 65 points, were Gareth Perkins, Geoff Moore and his guest David Jones.

In second place with 61 points were Hugh Williams, Dai John and Glyn Watts-Jones and in third place with 58 points were Geraint Davies, Keith James and Clive Edwards.

Nearest the pin on the Watts & Morgan sponsored par-3 holes were David Jones, Gareth Perkins, Glyn Watts-Jones, Godfrey Lewis and Chris Watson.

Hugh Williams capped a fine day by also winning the longest drive prize and David Jones returned home with the Premier Turf sponsored bottle of whisky when correctly guessing 20 balls would fail to return home raising £100 in support of Velindre Hospital.

The society's next meeting will be the annual medal round competition for the Shrieval Trophy, kindly sponsored by Mr Mark Rees scheduled for Thursday, May 31 at Cottrell Park Golf Club on the highly-acclaimed Mackintosh course.

T.McC

Barrivale Bridge Club results

RESULTS for Barrivale Bridge Club on April 24:

The top three places were: 1. Debbie Richards & Sean MacDougall 61.11%, and joint second place Jane Brook & Noelle Bond 60.32%, Mike Close & Mick Green 60.32%.

The handicap winners were Reg Dyer and Dave Thomas.

As always, new members are welcome at the club and a partner may be arranged, if required.

If you would like to join us please ring any of the following numbers - 01446 418380, 01446 733425 or 01446 735592 - or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry at 7pm on Tuesday evening.

Alternatively, players inexperienced or new, may attend on Fridays at 10am at the same address where lessons and play take place in a relaxed atmosphere.

While our current class for beginners continue to run on Friday mornings, new members wishing to start the class will be able to join the next beginners class commencing in September.

LH

Got a sports story, match report or item of interest? Then get in touch with us - email sport@glamorgan-gem.co.uk

Friendly loss for Centurions

SULLY Centurions Cricket Club completed their pre-season friendly fixtures with a defeat at Radyr on Sunday.

After Saturday's match with Rogerstone fell victim to the weather, a mixture of first and second XI players came up against a strong Radyr side, who proved too strong for the visitors.

The home side batted first on a wicket that had survived the wet weather, but was still quite damp.

There was an early breakthrough, when Gareth Thomas bowled opener O'Neil with the score on 26.

After this, however, Radyr steadily took control, thanks mainly to a fine innings from Wilson, who began finding the boundary with regularity.

The second wicket partnership with Das took the score along to 86 in the 19th over before Ricki Griffett struck via a Patrick Lane catch to remove Das for 35.

But Wilson was beginning to get into his stride and the Centurion attack was unable to find a way to make a breakthrough.

Chris Coles eventually had Lloyd caught by Griffett for 35, but this was no more than a late consolation as Radyr eventually finished on 235 for 3.

Wilson, by this time, had reached an unbeaten 128 – a great innings which included 15 fours and 3 sixes.

After tea, the Sully innings was opened by Gethin Hicks and Rhett Jones, who faced an accurate opening attack.

Runs were slow in coming, but both showed some nice touches before Rhett was caught off the bowling of Stanson for 11, with the score on 19.

Calum Thomas, making his first appearance since his return to Centurions, began to find the gaps in the field and looked comfortable at the crease.

Unfortunately wickets began to fall, beginning with Hicks, who was caught behind for 14. Thomas and Lloyd Bruce (21) shared an entertaining fifth wicket stand of 35 before Bruce fell to O'Neil in the 26th over.

Mander, with his unorthodox action, was causing all sorts of problems for Sully and he ended up with 4 for 30 as the Centurions innings ended on 129 all out. Calum Thomas was Centurions' top scorer with 43.

Radyr 235 for 3, Sully Centurions 129 all out.

This coming Saturday sees the start of the 2018 league season as Centurions' first XI entertain Dinas Powys at Burnham Avenue, while the second XI travel to Monmouth.

All players are asked to check with the captains regarding availability.

Sully Centurions CC are grateful to Waitrose Barry for the donation of £180 from their 'green token' initiative.

MF

Georgia and Maisie.

International basketball call-up for St Richard Gwyn pupils

MAISIE Harrhy and Georgia Hellerman, both pupils at St Richard Gwyn, Barry, have been selected to represent Welsh Basketball under-16 girls at the FIBA European Championships in Moldova at the beginning of July.

This is a great achievement considering they are still both just 14. The girls will be training with the national squad in the coming months in preparation for the European Championships at which they will play Scotland, Moldova and Gibraltar.

Talking about their achievements, Mrs Harrhy said: "Both sets of parents are bursting with pride, the girls work so hard and we have so much respect for their dedication and positive attitude and their love for the game."

Currently the St Richard Gwyn students both train with and play National League for Cardiff Met Archers under-16 girls and Maisie plays for Vale Vipers Basketball Club.

They are fortunate to have basketball coach Andy Leftley as a teacher at their school, and a great coaching team at Cardiff Met.

This adds to the girls' success, as Maisie represented Wales under-16 girls at the European Championships last year in Gibraltar, where the team narrowly missed out on a bronze medal, and Georgia has a successful record in netball having been selected in the Wales under-17 netball talent squad.

Basketball is self-funded so if any local businesses would like to sponsor the girls to help with travel costs then please do get in touch - email t.harrhy@ntlworld.com for more information.

MH

Young Brace scores again!

THERE'S no way of keeping young Connor Brace out of the racing news.

After riding three point-to-point winners over the weekend, which has put him well ahead in the national novice point-to-point riders' championship, on Tuesday, at Exeter, riding five-year-old BillyGwyn Too, he landed the Goffs Spring Sales P2P Bumper Flat Race getting home by three parts of a length from the favourite Kootenay River.

BillyGwyn Too is trained by Jonathan Tudor at Merthyr Mawr and was an 8-1 chance in a field of eight runners.

Connor, who won't be 17 until July, was a leading child pony racing rider and the experience he gained in those events have paid off handsomely.

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2012 (62) Fiat 500 1.2 Lounge (s/s) 3dr, white, 32,000 MLS FSH 1 PREV OWNER, LV62EWH £5,290

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2014 (14) BMW 5 Series 2.0 520d SE Touring 5dr, grey, MAJOR SPECIFICATION NAV LEATH, KV14OBM £11,495

2014 (63) BMW X3 2.0 20d M Sport xDrive 5dr, white, JUST 1 OWNER FSH LEATHER PDC, MT63WNM £16,790

2015 (65) Land Rover Discovery Sport 2.0 TD4 SE Tech 4X4 5dr, white, 36,000 miles, JUST 1 OWNER : NAV : 7 SEATS, FG65NGF . £23,990

1997 (P) Bentley Turbo R 6.8 LWB Saloon 4dr, JUST 57,000 MLS FSH STUNNING, P669PLE £17,995

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2013 (13) Audi TT 2.0 TFSI Sport S Tronic 3dr, white, 19,500 MLS : NAPPA LTHR : NAV, DK13HCD £15,490

2011 (11) BMW X5 3.0 40d M Sport xDrive 5dr, black, 64,000 miles, NAVIGATION LEATHER FSH XENON, YE11XXZ £17,995

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2013 (63) Audi A4 2.0 TDI e SE Technik 4dr, blue, LOADED : NAV : BT : £30 TAX, GN63YSP £8,445

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2013 (13) Land Rover Range Rover Evoque 2.2 SD4 Dynamic LUX Hatchback AWD 5dr, blue, 38,000 miles, PAN ROOF TV CAMERA BT AUDIO OG57MAD £23,990

2015 (15) Mazda CX-5 2.2 TD SE-L 2WD (s/s) 5dr, red, 52,000 miles, 1 PREV OWNER : FSH NAVIGATION £12,490

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2015 (64) Vauxhall Mokka 1.7 CDTi ecoFLEX 16v Exclusiv FWD (s/s) 5dr, black, 19,500 MLS 1 OWNER : 70.6 MPG, DS64XHK £9,990

2014 (63) Volkswagen Golf 2.0 TDI GTD 3dr, red, 1 OWNER : FSH : HTD LEATHER, GL63TXA £12,990

2013 (63) Mercedes-Benz E Class 3.0 E350 CDI BlueTEC AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 2dr, white, 34,000 MLS FSH NAV LTHR PDC, KN63WWB £16,990

2016 (16) Mercedes-Benz Gle Class 3.0 GLE350 AMG Line 9G-Tronic 4MATIC (s/s) 4dr, silver, JUST 15,000 MLS FSH NAV NAPPA, LL16RYB £41,990

2010 (60) Suzuki Grand Vitara 1.9 DDiS SZ5 5dr, silver, FSH 9 STAMPS LEATHER, KM60XLA £5,795

2014 (63) Volkswagen UP! 1.0 Move Up 5dr, blue, JUST 15,000 MLS FSH 1 OWNER, RF63EKL £6,290

2015 (15)) SEAT Ibiza 1.6 TDI CR FR 5dr, white, 30,000 miles, 1 OWNER : NAVI : B/TOOTH ; PDC, YD15GNV £8,990

2015 (15) Nissan Micra 1.2 Acenta 5dr, grey, JUST 27,000 MLS FSH 1 OWNER, LK15ORW £5,945

2011 (61) Nissan Qashqai+2 1.6 N-TEC (s/s) 5dr, red, 38,000 MLS FSH CAM NAV 7 SEAT, PK61CEF £9,790

2013 (13) Mercedes-Benz M Class 3.0 ML350 CDI BlueTEC AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 5dr, grey, 48,000 miles, BEAUTIFUL 1 OWNER FULL MSH, CK13TUA £20,990

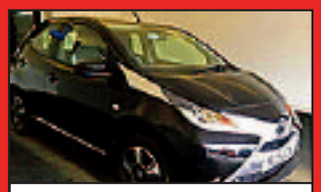
2014 (14) Peugeot Expert 1.6 HDi (EU5) L2 H1 4dr, white, 1200KG 3 SEATS FSH L2 H1 CLEAN, LF14HNJ £6,445

2015 (15)) Mercedes-Benz E Class 3.0 E350 CDI BlueTEC AMG Line 9G-Tronic Plus 5dr, grey, KEYLESS GO PAN-ROOF PREM SOUND, OU15SKZ £16,490

2015 (15) Skoda Octavia 2.0 TDI CR DPF SE 5dr, black, 59,000 MLS : 1 OWNER BIG SPEC, SF15WZP £9,445

2014 (64) Mercedes-Benz Vito 2.1 CDI Dualiner Compact Panel Van 5dr (5 Seats), silver, 6 SEATS 14,000 MILES 1 OWNER, SV64JPY . . . . . .£13,990 +VAT

2015 (15) Toyota Aygo 1.0 VVT-i x 5dr, red, 11,000 MLS 1 OWNER : FREE TAX, FX15OVP £6,490



2015 (15) Toyota Aygo 1.0 VVT-i x-clusiv 5dr, black, JUST 29,000 MLS FSH 1 OWNER, NL15UCA £7,490

2015 (65) Vauxhall Corsa 1.2 i Sting 3dr, red, 18,000 MLS : FSH WITH VAUXHALL, CE65AHP £5,990

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2008 (57) Toyota Yaris 1.3 VVT-i TR 5dr, black, JUST 51,000 MLS FSH 9 X STAMPS, YA57OOF £3,995

2014 (63) Mercedes-Benz E Class 2.1 E250 CDI AMG Sport 7G-Tronic Plus 4dr, blue, 40,000 miles, NAV : HTD LEATHER : AMG PACK, KU63YMW £15,990

63 Volvo XC60 2.0 TD SE Lux Geartronic 5dr 46,000 MLS FSH 1 PREV OWNER, FV63KUF £15,490

2016 (16) Peugeot 308 1.6 BlueHDi GT Line (s/s) 5dr, blue, JUST 11,500 MLS NAV CAM DAB, KN16JXF £11,990

2014 (14) Vauxhall Astra 1.4 i VVT 16v Turbo Limited Edition 5dr, red, JUST 1 OWNER 31,000 MLS FSH, RK14ZNJ £8,490

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16 16 MERCEDES A200d AMG Line 5dr, 18"alloys, reverse camera, 23k, silver, half leather £16495
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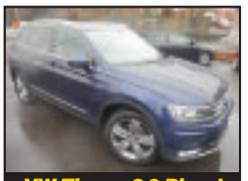

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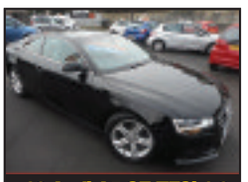

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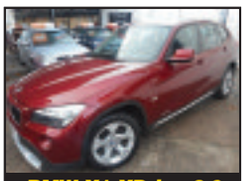

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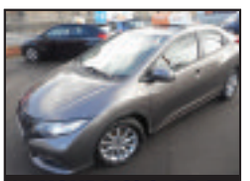

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Rampant batsmen smash club record!

CENTURIES by both Cowbridge Cricket Club's openers, Ben Wright (173) and Tom Merilaht (100 not out) saw Cowbridge to a club record 277-1 at Dafen on Saturday and suggested that the mighty duo's quest for runs has been undiminished by the off-season.

The stand set a new club record just two matches after they had broken their previous one.

Cowbridge garnered five batting points from their innings but at tea the rain arrived and unwelcomingly stayed for long enough to make an abandonment inevitable.

It is perhaps a futile and difficult exercise to compare cricketers or any other sportsmen for that matter across generations.

However it has to be correct that these two local lads constitute as formidable an opening pair as Cowbridge has ever possessed.

Great cricketers of the past like Billy Russell, Tip Williams, Norman Gauntlett and John Davies to pick out just a few would all still have been excellent today but even these paragons did not score the weight of runs these two have been responsible for.

They contrast well as a pair. Wright, the former Glamorgan batsman hits hard, clean and far, There were 13 sixes in his third consecutive hundred.

Merilaht, the 'artful nudger', is less flamboyant but he is the rock upon which the Cowbridge batting is based and was rewarded by getting to three figures just before the innings closed.

He was unlucky to have played MCC Universities cricket before it was accorded first class status, but as ever he was Cowbridge's rock.

Any cricket side with the ambition to become successful needs a top pair of openers and Cowbridge possess possibly the best pair in club cricket in Wales.

The duo provide a platform so often that it makes life easy for the rest of the batsmen.

Last Saturday there were debuts for four newcomers who have added greatly to the overall strength.

The highest profile belongs to Brad Evans, formerly a Zimbabwe under-17 player now studying at Cardiff Met/MCCU.

'Slippery' was Chris Willey's description of Brad's bowling but then Chris is never one to exaggerate!

Sam Routledge is an all-rounder also at Cardiff Met/ MCCU and hails from Nottinghamshire.

Tom Williams is a local lad returning while Jack Cropper has moved to the area and is also an accomplished goal-keeper.

The latter two are batsmen and both will find themselves in key roles during the summer.

So the first XI are up and running. On Saturday Gowerton were the only winners, defeating Merthyr and the rain to go top with 20 points and Cowbridge are second with 9.

Next week the first XI will play Bronwydd at the Athletic Ground at 1.30pm, the first chance to see Ben and Tom and the team in action. The bar will be open from 4 pm.

JRB

Wattstown win sees promotion delight for Cowbridge RFC!

THE efforts of the players and coaches of Cowbridge RFC over 21 games now rested on the last two matches – wins in one or both and it would be great joy, but in the way last Saturday were the fast-improving Wattstown.

ABOVE: Will Williams makes a break, while ABOVE RIGHT: Alex Guard and Hywel Williams look to attack the Wattstown defence.

Wattstown, looking much stronger than in the away fixture, started well but again the front row of Bater, Boxall and John had the measure of their opponents.

Six minutes in, great work from Bater initially saw a beautiful break in midfield by centre Alex Guard then out to outside half Tom James and back inside to Craig Boxall for a 60-metre try.

A superb conversion from close to the touchline by Zac Summerhayes eased the nerves.

Ten minutes later a 35-metre run by wing Will Williams went pear-shaped when a dropped pass and kick upfield brought a penalty for Wattstown to narrow the score.

At the midpoint, combined defence from flanker Joe Davies and No 8 Dan Holder, a feature throughout the game, allowed a fantastic break by fellow back rower and captain Richie Howson over 30 metres, and then a popped pass to supporting left wing Tom Harrison to crash over.

Another sublime conversion by Summerhayes took the score out to 14-3.

Petulance by the Watstown right wing probably deserved a yellow card; however Summerhayes popped over the penalty.

A number of teams have tried to out-muscle Cowbridge but the team have stood up each of them and it was no different here as Wattstown made determined efforts to score before half-time but were repelled time and again with Howson, second rows Kieran David and Jack Anderson to the fore.

The second half saw Wattstown burst out of the blocks but again great defence saw Howson producing two amazing tackles in succession to drive them back.

After fully 10 minutes of pressure Guard made another lovely break to sweep play upfield.

Changes saw scrum half Adam Dix and wing Harry Thomas on a replacements. For killing the ball a further penalty took the score out to 20-3 and another to 23-3.

Wattstown now would have to score three converted tries to win and with 10 minutes left, after a monumental effort, Holder came off and Rhys Price raced on.

Summerhayes, with a tight calf, came to the side and crowd favourite Dai Breed entered the fray.

Having stopped Wattstown crossing their line for 39 minutes after another tackle that drove their prop back by Howson, the ball came back on their side and was moved to their inside centre to find a gap for a converted try, for a final score of 23-10.

Mention should also be made of centre Jamie Bennett who took the ball up to make hard yards on numerous occasions, but this was a superb team effort to secure promotion, much to the delight of everybody associated with Cowbridge rugby.

Our last game is home against Canton on Wednesday, May 2, kick-off 6.45pm and there will be a report and round-up of the season in next week's GEM.

Many congratulations to Max Cunnington who has been selected for Team GB youth squad to play in Lithuania on May 5-6 and in the youth Olympics in Argentina between October 1-6. Well done Max, a fantastic achievement.

Last but not least the youth are playing Rumney in the Blues Youth South Cup final at Cardiff Arms Park this Saturday.

The kick-off is 3.30pm and a coach will be leaving the club at 1.30pm so let's get a good crowd going to support the boys.

RK/RV

Cowbridge Town AFC

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ALL children must have shin pads and a drink of water to be able to participate.

Cowbridge Town AFC provide football for over 350 players in the Vale of Glamorgan, and are always looking for volunteers to assist with coaching at all age groups. If this is something that may be of interest to you, please come along on the 19th May.

Bridge results

Colin and Judith Nunn with their trophy.

PENLLYN Bridge Club results for April:

Thursday, April 5 (19 pairs): 1st Vicki Long & Sandra Collin 59.38%, 2nd Colin & Judith Nunn 58.82%, 3rd Margaret & Hugh Thomas 57.99%.

Thursday, April 12 (19 pairs): 1st Alan Beckwith & Brian Tucker 61.93%, 2nd John Lord & Jo Ilsley 61.56%, 3rd Chris Impey & Julia Evans 56.25%.

Thursday, April 19 (21 pairs): 1st John Lord & Jo Ilsley 61.39%, 2nd David & Marion Stephenson 61.11%, 3rd Alan Beckwith & Brian Tucker 59.17%.

Thursday, April 26, Robert Brown Cup competition (17 pairs): 1st Helen & Mike Ruttley 62.5%, joint 2nd Helen Owen & Penny Jarvis and Marian East & Barbara Easterbrook 57.14%.

At the Penllyn Bridge Club's AGM, Colin and Judith Nunn were presented with the Robert Brown Cup 2017-2018. The competition was started in 1995 and Colin and Judith have won the cup four times.

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RUGBY UNDER-12S' CUP DREAM DASHED

COWBRIDGE RFC under-12s looked to secure their passage through to the final of their first ever Blues Cup campaign on Sunday at Merthyr RFC.

The semi-final had Cowbridge lined up against a strong Llanishen RFC who Cowbridge had defeated in the last two District finals. As anticipated there was little between the sides.

Llanishen started the stronger of the two with their pressure eventually telling and a neat interchange across the backline opened the scores, with the successful conversion taking Llanishen to 7-0.

Cowbridge rose to the occasion and found their stride with periods of play dominated by the pick and go of the Cowbridge pack that built their momentum and kept driving forward.

Continued pressure coupled with Llanishen's ill-discipline told and the Cowbridge pack capitalised with a power play, finding Henry Whitehouse unstoppable at close quarters.

The try and successful conversion from James Collingridge equalled the scores.

In what was to be a hallmark of the game, the frenetic pace continued. Llanishen struck back, capitalising at the breakdown and strong running lines from midfield took them ahead once again and closed out the first period with the conversion at 14-7.

The second half was an equally fierce contest with full commitment from both sides.

The play was evenly balanced across the opening 10-minutes of the second half, until a killer blow was struck by the powerful Llanishen winger, breaking through the defensive line and going over under the posts to make it 21-7 to Llanishen.

Cowbridge answered the challenge, displaying a resilience and desire that took the upper hand in the game.

Jake Davies ran in from outside centre and Ioan Phillips from the resurgent pack. Unfortunately the tries weren't converted and Llanishen hung on to secure their passage to the final, 21-17.

A great display of rugby and Cowbridge will only grow stronger from the lessons learnt in defeat.

The squad said fairwell to George Tuckley, who has made an outstanding impact in his time with the team over the last four years, and we all wish him well in his new rugby home.

The parents, players and coaches are all a credit to this team who look forward to the challenges ahead.

It has been a pleasure reporting on the team performances for the last two years.

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